

would like to thank Senator FISCHER for traveling to Billings, Montana to chair the first in a series of hearings on pipeline safety and coordinating efforts to write this important legislation. Additionally, I thank Senators BOOKER and PETERS for their work drafting this legislation.

In Montana, we have some of the country's most pristine wild spaces along with an abundance on natural resources. Montana produces approximately 30 million barrels of crude oil, 63 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and 42 million short tons of coal annually. We export 60 percent of this energy. The oil and gas industries support the employment of over 43,000 Montanans. Likewise, Montana's unspoiled mountains and streams is the main motivator for many visiting Montana. The tourism industry supports the employment of over 53,000 Montanans.

It is needless to say, but it is imperative that both jobs are protected. This legislation does just that, by improving pipeline inspection report turnaround times, increasing focus on pipeline river crossings, helping fill vacant inspector positions, facilitating communications between PHMSA and State agencies, and enabling PHMSA to conduct safety research with industry experts.

I look forward to continue my work, along with my colleagues, on enhancing pipeline safety, protecting our economic and environmental resources, and shepherding this legislation across the finish line.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8, 2015, AS “NATIONAL PREGNANCY CENTER WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE THAT COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED PREGNANCY CENTERS (ALSO KNOWN AS PREGNANCY CARE AND PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS) PLAY IN SAVING LIVES AND SERVING WOMEN AND MEN Faced WITH DIFFICULT PREGNANCY DECISIONS

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SASSE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 312

Whereas, for more than 100 years, young women facing unplanned pregnancies have found support from charitable organizations ranging from Catholic Charities and Jewish Maternity Homes to the Salvation Army;

Whereas many charitable organizations banded together on November 13, 1971, to form the first United States association of nonprofit organizations dedicated to rescuing as many lives as possible from abortion;

Whereas, as of 2013, there were approximately 2,500 pregnancy centers in the United States;

Whereas women in every part of the United States turn to pregnancy centers for help, hope, and healing;

Whereas pregnancy centers are local, nonprofit organizations that provide vital and compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions;

Whereas pregnancy centers reach more than 2,300,000 people each year through a combination of client services, including—

- (1) pregnancy tests;
- (2) ultrasound and medical services;
- (3) options counseling and education; and
- (4) parenting and childbirth classes;

Whereas, every day in the United States, pregnancy centers assist an average of 6,500 people, including women and men of all ages and backgrounds;

Whereas some pregnancy centers offer specific medical services, including—

- (1) consultation with a licensed medical professional;
- (2) limited ultrasound for pregnancy confirmation; and
- (3) testing for sexually transmitted infections and diseases;

Whereas the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates—

(1) provides life-affirming pregnancy centers with legal counsel, education, and training;

(2) has assisted hundreds of pregnancy centers in becoming medical clinics; and

(3) represented nearly 1,000 pregnancy centers that operate as medical clinics today;

Whereas approximately 30,000 Americans volunteer at community-supported pregnancy centers each year, offering more than 5,700,000 hours of uncompensated work;

Whereas the approximately 1,000 medical pregnancy centers that provide limited ultrasound deliver limited ultrasound at little or no cost to women;

Whereas, in 2010, close to 230,000 ultrasounds were performed at pregnancy medical centers;

Whereas pregnancy centers understand that each pregnancy decision is an emotional and private choice, and compassionate staff and trained volunteers of pregnancy centers—

- (1) provide each patient with educational materials; and
- (2) offer each patient emotional support and care to help each patient through difficult situations;

Whereas close to 78 percent of pregnancy centers in the United States offer specialized parenting education—

- (1) through direct services on premises; or
- (2) in nearby churches, schools, or other locations;

Whereas nearly every pregnancy care and resource center provides clients with material support for pregnancy and infant care, which may include—

- (1) maternity clothing;
- (2) baby clothes and furniture;
- (3) housing assistance; or
- (4) nutritional counseling and resources;

Whereas pregnancy centers—

(1) do not discriminate based on age, race, nationality, creed, religious affiliation, disability, or arbitrary circumstances; and

(2) take special care to provide help to underserved minority populations;

Whereas pregnancy centers have committed to engaging fathers so that they can acquire the skills necessary to become involved and responsible fathers;

Whereas Care Net affiliated pregnancy centers—

(1) have saved more than 462,000 babies since 2008; and

(2) saved 73,000 babies in 2014 alone;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports that Heartbeat International affiliated pregnancy centers rescue 160,000 babies from the risk of abortion each year;

Whereas, in the last 7 years, 8 of 10 women considering abortion when they entered a Care Net affiliated pregnancy care and resource center ended up choosing life;

Whereas, in the last 7 years, Care Net affiliated pregnancy centers—

- (1) provided 698,649 free ultrasound scans;
- (2) provided parenting support and education to 828,190 individuals;
- (3) provided material resources to more than 1,200,000 individuals; and
- (4) administered 2,100,000 pregnancy tests;

Whereas the 24-hour Option Line of Heartbeat International—

(1) helps carry out a mission of reaching and rescuing as many lives as possible around the world through an effective network of life-affirming pregnancy help centers; and

(2) answers questions by phone, text, email, or chat before connecting an individual with the local pregnancy help organization of the individual where the individual will receive 1-on-1, compassionate, caring support;

Whereas, in 2014 Heartbeat International received their 2,000,000th contact through the Option Line;

Whereas the Care Net Pregnancy Decision Line is the only national hotline that provides immediate pregnancy decision coaching by highly trained coaches;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports the existence of 413 maternity homes in the United States;

Whereas, in 2008, Care Net, Heartbeat International, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, and other groups issued a statement entitled “Our Commitment of Care and Competence”, which—

- (1) addresses issues including—
 - (A) scientific and medical accuracy;
 - (B) truth in advertising;
 - (C) compassion;
 - (D) nondiscrimination;
 - (E) patient confidentiality;
 - (F) staff training; and
 - (G) a consistent life ethic; and
- (2) expands the determination of the pregnancy help movement to comply with applicable legal requirements regarding—

- (A) employment;
- (B) fundraising;
- (C) financial management;
- (D) taxation;
- (E) medical licensure; and
- (F) operation standards; and

Whereas less than 10 percent of the income of pregnancy centers in the United States derives from governmental sources, which ensures that pregnancy centers—

- (1) minimize burdens on each taxpayer; and
- (2) engage local communities to provide sustainable support; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning November 8, 2015, as “National Pregnancy Center Week”;

(2) supports the important work of pregnancy centers across the United States;

(3) appreciates and recognizes the thousands of volunteers and staff of pregnancy centers in the United States who give millions of hours of service each year to women and men who are faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; and

(4) recognizes the importance of—

- (A) protecting life; and
- (B) assisting women and men in need as they bring children into the world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2791. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2792. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2793. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2794. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra.

SA 2795. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra.

SA 2796. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 90, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356.

SA 2797. Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. McCASKILL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2798. Mr. TESTER (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra.

SA 2799. Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2800. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2801. Mr. TESTER (for Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TILLIS)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra.

SA 2802. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2803. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2804. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill S. 1356, to clarify that certain provisions of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 will not take effect until after the Director of the Office of Personnel Management promulgates and makes effective regulations relating to such provisions; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2805. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GARDNER, and Mrs. MURRAY)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill H.R. 2262, to facilitate a pro-growth environment for the developing commercial space industry by encouraging private sector investment and creating more stable and predictable regulatory conditions, and for other purposes.

SA 2806. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. ISAKSON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1203, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SA 2807. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 302, expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel and in condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks.

SA 2808. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. BLUMENTHAL) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 302, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2791. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes, with respect to the South Texas Veterans Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the following:

(1) A description of the nature and scope of any foreseeable increase in wait times for medical appointments.

(2) An assessment of whether a shortage of health care providers is the primary cause of any such increase in wait times.

(3) An identification of any other causes of any such increase in wait times.

(4) A description of any action taken by the Department to correct any such increase in wait times.

(5) An assessment of any issues relating to access to care.

(6) A plan for how the Secretary will remedy any such increase in wait times, including a detailed description of steps to be taken and a timeline for completion.

(b) In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SA 2792. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. _____. EXPANSION OF CHOICE PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (p); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (q), (r), (s), and (t) as subsections (p), (q), (r), and (s), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is amended—

(A) in subsection (i)(2), by striking “during the period in which the Secretary is authorized to carry out this section pursuant to subsection (p)”;

(B) in subsection (p)(2), as redesignated by paragraph (1)(B), by striking subparagraph (F).

(b) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

“(b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—A veteran is an eligible veteran for purposes of this section if the veteran is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, including any such veteran who has not received hospital care or medical services from the Department and has contacted the Department seeking an initial appointment from the Department for the receipt of such care or services.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “In the case of an eligible veteran described in subsection (b)(2)(A), the Secretary shall, at the election of the eligible veteran” and inserting “The Secretary shall, at the election of an eligible veteran”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “described in such subsection” and inserting “of the Veterans Health Administration”;

(B) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

(C) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (3); and

(D) in subsection (p)(2)(A), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1)(B), by striking “, disaggregated by—” and all that follows through “subsection (b)(2)(D)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to hospital care and medical services furnished under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) on and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2793. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal