

253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Data or Dogma? Promoting Open Inquiry in the Debate over the Magnitude of Human Impact on Earth’s Climate.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Millennium Challenge Corporation: Lessons Learned after a Decade and Outlook for the Future.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Opioid Abuse in America: Facing the Epidemic and Examining Solutions.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 8, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Ensuring Competition Remains on Tap: The AB InBev/SABMiller merger and the State of Competition in the Beer Industry.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sarah Rosenberg, a fellow with the Senate HELP Committee, and Lauren Burdette, a fellow in Senator CASEY’s office, be granted floor privileges during the consideration of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brian Alexander, a fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my education fellow, Cristina Veresan, be given floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RAISE FAMILY CAREGIVERS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 306, S. 1719.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1719) to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 1719

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage Family Caregivers Act of 2015” or the “RAISE Family Caregivers Act”.*

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

*In this Act:*

(1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory Council” means the Family Caregiving Advisory Council convened under section 4.

(2) **FAMILY CAREGIVER.**—The term “family caregiver” means an adult family member or other individual who has a significant relationship with, and who provides a broad range of assistance to, an individual with a chronic or other health condition, disability, or functional limitation.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(4) **STRATEGY.**—The term “Strategy” means the National Family Caregiving Strategy established, maintained, and updated under section 3.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVING STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall develop, maintain, and periodically update a National Family Caregiving Strategy.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The Strategy shall identify specific actions that Federal, State, and local governments, communities, health care, long-term services and supports and other providers,

employers, and others can take to recognize and support family caregivers in a manner that reflects their diverse needs, including with respect to the following:

(1) Promoting greater adoption of person- and family-centered care in all health and long-term services and supports settings, with the person receiving services and supports and the family caregiver (as appropriate) at the center of care teams.

(2) Assessment and service planning (including care transitions and coordination) involving family caregivers and care recipients.

(3) Training and other supports.

(4) Information, education, referral, and care coordination, including hospice, palliative care, and advance planning services.

(5) Respite options.

(6) Financial security.

(7) Workplace policies and supports that allow family caregivers to remain in the workforce.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.**—The Secretary, in carrying out this section, shall be responsible for the following:

(1) Collecting and making publicly available information, including evidence-based or promising practices and innovative models (both domestically and internationally) regarding the provision of care by family caregivers or support for family caregivers.

(2) Coordinating Federal Government programs and activities to recognize and support family caregivers while ensuring maximum effectiveness and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

(3) Providing technical assistance, such as best practices and information sharing, to State or local efforts, as appropriate, to support family caregivers.

(4) Addressing disparities in recognizing and supporting family caregivers and meeting the needs of the diverse family caregiving population.

(5) Assessing all Federal programs regarding family caregivers, including with respect to funding levels.

(d) **INITIAL STRATEGY; UPDATES.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, develop, publish, and submit to Congress the initial Strategy incorporating the items addressed in the Advisory Council’s report in section 4(d)(2) and other priority actions for recognizing and supporting family caregivers; and

(2) not less than every 2 years, update, republish, and submit to Congress the Strategy, taking into account the most recent annual report submitted under section 4(d)(1)—

(A) to reflect new developments, challenges, opportunities, and solutions; and

(B) to assess progress in implementation of the Strategy and, based on the results of such assessment, recommend priority actions for such implementation.

(e) **PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT.**—The Secretary shall establish a process for public input to inform the development of, and updates to, the Strategy, including a process for the public to submit recommendations to the Advisory Council and an opportunity for public comment on the proposed Strategy.

(f) **NO PREEMPTION.**—Nothing in this Act preempts any authority of a State or local government to recognize or support family caregivers.

SEC. 4. FAMILY CAREGIVING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

(a) **CONVENING.**—The Secretary shall convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council to provide advice to the Secretary on recognizing and supporting family caregivers.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The members of the Advisory Council shall consist of—

(A) the appointed members under paragraph (2); and

(B) the Federal members under paragraph (3).

(2) **APPOINTED MEMBERS.**—In addition to the Federal members under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall appoint not more than 15 members

of the Advisory Council who are not representatives of Federal departments or agencies and who shall include at least one representative of each of the following:

- (A) Family caregivers.
- (B) Older adults with long-term services and supports needs, including older adults facing disparities.
- (C) Individuals with disabilities.
- (D) Advocates for family caregivers, older adults with long-term services and supports needs, and individuals with disabilities.
- (E) Health care and social service providers.
- (F) Long-term services and supports providers.
- (G) Employers.
- (H) Paraprofessional workers.
- (I) State and local officials.
- (J) Accreditation bodies.
- (K) Relevant industries.
- (L) Veterans.
- (M) As appropriate, other experts in family caregiving.

(3) **FEDERAL MEMBERS.**—The Federal members of the Advisory Council, who shall be nonvoting members, shall consist of the following:

- (A) The Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (or the Administrator's designee).
- (B) The Administrator of the Administration for Community Living (or the Administrator's designee who has experience in both aging and disability).
- (C) The Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families (or the Assistant Secretary's designee).
- (D) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or the Secretary's designee).
- (E) The Secretary of Labor (or the Secretary's designee).

(F) The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's designee).

(G) The National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (or the National Coordinator's designee).

(H) The Administrator of the Small Business Administration (or the Administrator's designee).

(I) The Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service (or the Chief Executive Officer's designee).

(J) The heads of other Federal departments or agencies (or their designees), as appointed by the Secretary or the Chair of the Advisory Council.

(4) **DIVERSE REPRESENTATION.**—The Secretary shall ensure that the membership of the Advisory Council reflects the diversity of family caregivers and individuals receiving services and supports.

(c) **MEETINGS.**—The Advisory Council shall meet quarterly during the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and at least three times during each year thereafter. Meetings of the Advisory Council shall be open to the public.

(d) **ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the Secretary and Congress a report concerning the development, maintenance, and updating of the Strategy and the implementation thereof, including a description of the outcomes of the recommendations and priorities under paragraph (2), as appropriate. Such report shall be made publicly available by the Advisory Council.

(2) **INITIAL REPORT.**—The Advisory Council's initial report under paragraph (1) shall include—

- (A) an inventory and assessment of all federally funded efforts to recognize and support family caregivers and the outcomes of such efforts, including analyses of the extent to which federally funded efforts are reaching family caregivers and gaps in such efforts;
- (B) recommendations for priority actions—
  - (i) to improve and better coordinate programs; and

(ii) to deliver services based on the performance, mission, and purpose of a program while eliminating redundancies and ensuring the needs of family caregivers are met;

(C) recommendations to reduce the financial impact and other challenges of caregiving on family caregivers; and

(D) an evaluation of how family caregiving impacts the Medicare program, and Medicaid program, and other Federal programs.

(e) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Council.

#### **SEC. 5. SUNSET PROVISION.**

The authority and obligations established by this Act shall terminate on December 31, 2025.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1719), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### **RECOGNIZING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 135, S. Res. 207.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 207) recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the Casey amendment to the preamble, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 207) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2921) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the fifteenth whereas clause, and insert the following:

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists in prison as of December 1, 2014, were China, Eritrea, Iran, Ethiopia, and Vietnam;

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, is as follows:

S. RES. 207

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948, states that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day” to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, to evaluate freedom of the press around the world, to defend the media from attacks on its independence, and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/163) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which unequivocally condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

Whereas 2015 is the 22nd anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, which focuses on the theme “Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, and Media Safety in the Digital Age”;

Whereas the 2015 World Press Freedom prize was awarded to Syrian journalist and human rights activist Mazen Darwish, who remains imprisoned by the Assad regime;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–166; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of freedom of the press around the world in the annual human rights report of the Department of State;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, only approximately 14 percent of the world's inhabitants—or one in seven people—live in countries with a press ranked as “Free” by Freedom House;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 69 journalists and 19 citizen journalists were killed in 2014 in connection with their collection and dissemination of news and information;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 3 deadliest countries for journalists on assignment in 2014 were Syria, Ukraine, and Iraq;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, more than 40 percent of the journalists killed in 2014 were targeted for murder and 31 percent of journalists murdered reported receiving threats first;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 650 journalists have been killed between 1992 and April 2015 without the perpetrators of such crimes facing punishment;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalist murders that go unpunished, measured from 2004 to 2014, are Iraq, Somalia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Syria;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 853 journalists and 122 citizen journalists were arrested in 2014;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 221 journalists worldwide were in prison as of December 1, 2014;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists in prison as of December 1, 2014, were China, Eritrea, Iran, Ethiopia, and Vietnam;