

receiving juvenile justice formula grants to screen children with mental illness or substance abuse issues. Finally, our bill would encourage States to rely on policies and practices that reflect the most recent research on what works best with troubled youth.

Also during May, the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth held several forums to allow foster youth to share their experiences and to hear from experts about how policies can be improved for children and families.

The caucus hosted a three-part series of panel discussions on the impact of substance abuse and mental health disorders on children and families involved in the child welfare system. We heard directly from youth, learned more about how the opioid epidemic is impacting families, how to prevent foster care by working with families, and how to better achieve positive outcomes through in-home services. We were fortunate to have Iowa's Judge William Owens from the Wapello County Family Drug Court. Judge Owens highlighted how professionals working with child welfare-involved families have changed their practice and policies in his county leading to improved outcomes for families.

On the same topic, I co-hosted Dr. Phil who shared his expertise with policymakers in helping families in crisis dealing with substance abuse issues. He focused on the link between the current opioid epidemic and the rising number of children placed in foster care.

The caucus also partnered with other child welfare organizations on a briefing about foster parent recruitment and retention. The frontline caregivers for hundreds of thousands of children in foster care are foster parents. They provide physical care, emotional support, education advocacy, and, many times, a permanent home and future for these kids. Sometimes they are relatives; sometimes they are complete strangers. But no matter who they are, they are opening their hearts and homes to children in need. Because more children are coming into care, we need to do all we can to recruit quality foster parents to keep these kids safe, healthy, in school, and thriving in society.

At the end of the month, I helped co-sponsor a briefing to discuss effective practices for youth transitioning out of foster care. Because 26,000 young people leave foster care without a forever family and with limited resources and little support, we need to do better to guide and help this population successfully navigate the real world of adulthood. It was an opportunity to learn about intensive, individualized and clinically focused case management and counseling, which has proven results for long-term success.

Finally, I participated in a Senate Finance Committee hearing titled, "Can Evidence Based Practices Improve Outcomes for Vulnerable Individuals and Families?" As a senior mem-

ber of the Finance Committee and the author of many child welfare laws that have gone through that committee, I was able to listen and ask questions of experts about how we can move to more evidenced-based programs and learn from programs that are successful.

The hope for panel discussions and briefings is to find innovative solutions—whether through legislation or awareness and shifts in practice.

This year, I also urged the Department of Education to work with States to implement a provision I helped pass in the Every Student Succeeds Act. This education bill includes new data collection and reporting provisions to shine a light on achievement gaps for students who have long been overlooked in federally funded education, including homeless and foster youth.

I have also worked on several bills this year to improve foster care policies.

The Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act would reduce the amount of time it takes to place children by incentivizing more States to implement the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise, or NEICE system. Six pilot States that utilized NEICE, on average, reduced wait times for children by 30 percent and anticipate savings of \$1.6 million per year in reduced copying, mailing, and administrative costs. Throughout the country, caseworkers often avoid exploring out-of-state placements because of the long delays in processing the paperwork. Our bill gives incentives to States to join the NEICE system and streamline the paperwork to make foster care placements and eventual adoption happen faster. The more we can do to give children safe, stable homes, the better. The increased displacement of kids due to parental substance abuse, including opioid abuse, makes this cause especially important.

The Protecting Families Affected by Substance Abuse Act would reauthorize for 5 years the regional partnership grants that were created in 2006 when I was chairman of the Finance Committee. While the original intent of the 2006 grants was to address methamphetamine abuse, the scope expanded to other substances as new problems emerged. Opioid addiction is a key focus of the new bill, as we have seen the havoc prescription painkillers and heroin continue to have on families and communities around the nation. The grants support regional partnerships for services including early intervention and preventive services; child and family counseling; mental health services; parenting skills training; and replication of successful models for providing family-based, comprehensive long-term substance abuse treatment services.

Supporting Foster Youth Who Age Out—this bill would allow States to use these Federal dollars for foster youth services up to age 23 and further

help those who age out of care with more opportunities to transition to adulthood. It also would allow greater flexibility for States to use their funds in a manner that best benefits the youth population they serve. The legislation builds on the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, created by then-Senator John Chafee in 1999 to better support youth who age out of the foster care system at the age of 18. The program provides financial support for youth who are transitioning to adulthood with the goal to make them self-sufficient.

For years, I have tried to call attention to the issues facing foster care youth, which consists of more than 415,000 children nationwide, more than 6,000 of whom live with one of Iowa's approximately 2,700 foster families. As founder and co-chair of the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth, I often have the opportunity to hear firsthand from kids growing up in foster care. Foster youth long to be heard. These children need permanency and a loving family, not to be shuffled around from home to home. They tell me that important improvements have recently been made, but there are still gaps in services that could be solved with a combination of policy changes and citizen involvement.

While this population of youth deserves year-round attention, we honor them this month. This is an especially important time to have discussions about how we can improve their lives and strengthen their families. It is important, too, that we remember all of the other individuals involved in helping children who are in the foster care system—including caseworkers, social workers, guardians, child welfare advocates, and foster families.

Our work on this issue will continue.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 466) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 16, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2016 AS "MENTAL HEALTH MONTH"

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 480, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 480) supporting the designation of May 2016 as "Mental Health Month."

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 480) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MAY 2016 AS ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res 481, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 481) recognizing the significance of May 2016 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to join in the recognition and celebration of the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This month, we celebrate the many contributions Asian American and Pacific Islanders, AAPI, have made to the United States and their cultures, traditions, and history. In 1978, Congress passed a joint congressional resolution to commemorate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week during the first week of May in 1979, and in 1992, Congress passed legislation that annually designated May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Congress chose May because two important anniversaries occurred during this month. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in America. May 10 is the anniversary of the transcontinental railroad's completion in 1869. Many of the workers who laid the tracks for this railroad were Chinese immigrants. These two dates only begin to describe the innumerable contributions that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to this country. The AAPI community of over 18 million draws from a variety of distinct cultures, each of which has enriched American society and challenged our Nation to aspire to be better. This community comprises 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 different languages. Through hard work and a steadfast commitment to American ideals, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have strengthened this country as leaders, laborers, activists, artists, and trailblazers.

I remember our beloved former colleague, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, who lost an arm defending America during World War II as part of the "Go for Broke" 442nd Regiment, which was composed almost entirely of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry and became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare. In Maryland, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions and serve our Nation with distinction. The Honorable Theodore D. Chuang of Bethesda, for example, is a U.S. District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland and is the first Asian American judge in history to sit on the Federal bench in Maryland or the Fourth Circuit, which includes Maryland and four other States.

As the former chairman and current ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, I have been closely engaged on issues affecting the Asia-Pacific American community and their families abroad. I will continue to work on behalf of this community, especially on issues such as human rights, security, and peace. I have, therefore, cosponsored two resolutions related to Asian Pacific Heritage Month. One resolution—the one the Senate is currently considering—recognizes the accomplishments of Asian American and Pacific Islanders and May 2016 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The other resolution notes the historical significance of Japanese internment and its end. I support this resolution, too, because as we honor Asian Americans, we must remember and acknowledge that dark stain on our history as we redouble our efforts to ensure that the United States of America remains a beacon of tolerance and inclusion. Discrimination based on the actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, or sexual orientation of people is anathema to the values we cherish as Americans.

Once again, I would like to thank Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander Americans in Maryland and all around the country for their tremendous contributions to and sacrifices for our Nation.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 481) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3011

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3011) to improve the accountability, efficiency, transparency, and overall effectiveness of the Federal Government.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2016, THROUGH MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, May 27, at 12:30 p.m.; Tuesday, May 31, at 8:30 a.m.; Friday, June 3, at 1 p.m.; I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, June 3, it next convene at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 12:30 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.