

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2612, a bill to ensure United States jurisdiction over offenses committed by United States personnel stationed in Canada in furtherance of border security initiatives.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2782, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3021

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning.

S. 3043

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3043, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

S. 3373

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3373, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that the reciprocal deposits of an insured depository institution are not considered to be funds obtained by or through a deposit broker, and for other purposes.

S. 3386

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3386, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May 1 as "Silver Star Service Banner Day".

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 3447

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3447, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 3475

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3475, a bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

S. CON. RES. 56

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 56, a concurrent resolution clarifying any potential misunderstanding as to whether actions taken by President-elect Donald Trump constitute a violation of the Emoluments Clause, and calling on President-elect Trump to divest his interest in, and sever his relationship to, the Trump Organization.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 616, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

S. RES. 621

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 621, a resolution designating November 2016 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 3488. A bill to protect freedom of speech in America's electoral process and ensure transparency in campaign finance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, today I am introducing the SuperPAC Elimination Act. Another election cycle has come and gone without addressing a glaring issue that remains significant: free speech and transparency in campaign finance. Our current campaign finance system is absurd. Right now, a large percentage—sometimes a majority—of campaign expenditures are made by independent third-party SuperPACs that are prohibited from communicating with candidates. That makes no sense. Candidates should define their own messages, and citizens should be free to support whatever candidates they choose to support. Restrictions to political contributions are always presented under the guise of preventing corruption and holding politicians accountable, when in fact they accomplish exactly the opposite: pro-

tecting incumbent politicians. My legislation would put Americans on a level playing field with the media and politicians when it comes to influencing elections and exercising our First Amendment rights. Specifically, it would remove the caps on direct contributions to candidates from individuals and requires donations of more than \$200 to be disclosed within 24 hours. Establishing unlimited contributions paired with immediate disclosure is the best way to promote transparency, eliminate the viability of SuperPACs going forward, and ensure that free speech is protected in the electoral process. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to shed light on the political arena and empower individual Americans by passing this important legislation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 624—SUPPORTING THE GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND IDEALS OF WORLD PREMATURITY MONTH

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 624

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, complications from preterm birth are the world's leading killer of children younger than 5 years of age;

Whereas preterm birth is a global problem, exacting a harsh toll on families from all parts of society in every country;

Whereas, in 2015, complications from preterm birth accounted for 1,000,000 deaths of children younger than 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas there are stark inequalities with respect to the survival rates of preterm babies born around the world;

Whereas up to 75 percent of deaths resulting from preterm birth worldwide could be prevented through proven low-cost interventions;

Whereas countries can improve maternal health and the survival rate of babies born prematurely by making strategic investments in health care systems to ensure access to—

- (1) high quality prenatal and postnatal care;
- (2) quality childbirth services;
- (3) emergency obstetric care; and
- (4) comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, premature birth is the leading contributor to infant death in the United States and poses the risk of lifelong health problems for babies who survive;

Whereas, while the preterm birth rate in the United States decreased from a peak of 12.8 percent in 2006 to 9.6 percent in 2015, the rate remains too high;

Whereas many communities in the United States experience significant racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates;

Whereas, in 2005, the Institute of Medicine estimated that the annual societal economic cost associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26,200,000,000; and

Whereas preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs, including through the reduction of risk factors, such as tobacco use and early elective deliveries, and the promotion of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 2016 as “World Prematurity Month”;

(2) supports efforts in the United States, and recognizes efforts abroad, to—

(A) reduce the impact of preterm births by improving maternal health; and

(B) advance the care and treatment of infants who are born preterm; and

(3) honors individuals working in the United States and internationally to reduce the number of preterm births.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 625—SUPPORTING THE GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND IDEALS OF WORLD PREMATURETY DAY

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 625

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, complications from preterm birth are the world's leading killer of children younger than 5 years of age;

Whereas preterm birth is a global problem, exacting a harsh toll on families from all parts of society in every country;

Whereas, in 2015, complications from preterm birth accounted for 1,000,000 deaths of children younger than 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas there are stark inequalities with respect to the survival rates of preterm babies born around the world;

Whereas up to 75 percent of deaths resulting from preterm birth worldwide could be prevented through proven low-cost interventions;

Whereas countries can improve maternal health and the survival rate of babies born prematurely by making strategic investments in health care systems to ensure access to—

(1) high quality prenatal and postnatal care;

(2) quality childbirth services;

(3) emergency obstetric care; and

(4) comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, premature birth is the leading contributor to infant death in the United States and poses the risk of lifelong health problems for babies who survive;

Whereas, while the preterm birth rate in the United States decreased from a peak of 12.8 percent in 2006 to 9.6 percent in 2015, the rate remains too high;

Whereas many communities in the United States experience significant racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates;

Whereas, in 2005, the Institute of Medicine estimated that the annual societal economic cost associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26,200,000,000; and

Whereas preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs, including through the reduction of risk factors, such as tobacco use and early elective deliveries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 17, 2016, as “World Prematurity Day”;

(2) supports efforts in the United States, and recognizes efforts abroad, to—

(A) reduce the impact of preterm births by improving maternal health; and

(B) advance the care and treatment of infants who are born preterm; and

(3) honors individuals working in the United States and internationally to reduce the number of preterm births.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 626—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 626

Whereas the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (referred to in this preamble as “MD Anderson Cancer Center”) has provided continuous health services for 75 years;

Whereas the Texas legislature established MD Anderson Cancer Center in 1941 as part of the University of Texas system with an appropriation of \$500,000 and a matching funding grant from the MD Anderson Foundation to build a cancer hospital and research center;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center is 1 of the original 3 comprehensive cancer centers in the United States that was established by the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-216);

Whereas as of November 2016, MD Anderson Cancer Center is 1 of the largest and most respected centers devoted exclusively to cancer patient care, research, education, and prevention in the world;

Whereas the mission of MD Anderson Cancer Center—

(1) is to eliminate cancer in Texas, the United States, and the world through exceptional programs that integrate patient care, research, and prevention; and

(2) includes education for undergraduate and graduate student trainees, professionals, employees, and the public;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center is dedicated to embracing the 3 core values of caring, integrity, and discovery;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Texans have received quality medical care from MD Anderson Cancer Center during its 75 years of service;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center has invested hundreds of millions of dollars towards scientific breakthroughs in the fight against cancer, including nearly \$800,000,000 in fiscal year 2015;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center is home to the largest cancer clinical trial program in the world, with more than 9,400 patients participating in almost 1,200 clinical trials;

Whereas MD Anderson has educated tens of thousands of health professionals, including physicians, scientists, nurses, and allied health professionals during its 75 years of service;

Whereas MD Anderson has employed tens of thousands of hardworking individuals who have devoted their lives to the care, concern, and healing of patients;

Whereas the commitment of MD Anderson Cancer Center to individuals who have served in the United States military earned MD Anderson Cancer Center a place on the 2015 Best for Vets employer list;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center—

(1) was ranked number 1 for cancer care in the survey of best hospitals published in U.S. News and World Report in 2016; and

(2) has been named 1 of the top 2 cancer centers in the United States every year since that survey began in 1990; and

Whereas the nursing program at MD Anderson Cancer Center holds the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Nursing Services Recognition status, which recognizes health care organizations for quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas; and

(2) commends MD Anderson Cancer Center and its employees for providing quality care to hundreds of thousands of patients over the last 75 years.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 57—HONORING IN PRAISE AND REMEMBRANCE THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE, STEADY LEADERSHIP, AND REMARKABLE, 70-YEAR REIGN OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 57

Whereas His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej enjoyed a special relationship with the United States, having been born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1927 while his father was completing his medical studies at Harvard University;

Whereas King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended to the throne on June 9, 1946, and celebrated his 70th year as King of Thailand in 2016;

Whereas, at the time of his death, King Bhumibol Adulyadej was the longest-serving head of state in the world and the longest-reigning monarch in the history of Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty dedicated his life to the well-being of the Thai people and the sustainable development of Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty led by example and virtue with the interest of the people at heart, earning His Majesty the deep reverence of the Thai people and the respect of people around the world;

Whereas His Majesty reached out to the poorest and most vulnerable people of Thailand, regardless of their status, ethnicity, or religion, listened to their problems, and empowered them to take their lives into their own hands;

Whereas, in 2006, His Majesty received the first United Nations Human Development Award, recognizing him as the “Development King” for the extraordinary contribution of His Majesty to human development;

Whereas His Majesty was recognized internationally in the areas of intellectual property, innovation, and creativity, and in 2006, the World Intellectual Property Organization presented His Majesty with the Global Leadership Award;

Whereas His Majesty was an anchor of peace and stability for Thailand during the turbulent decades of the Cold War;

Whereas His Majesty was always a trusted friend of the United States in advancing a strong and enduring alliance and partnership between the United States and Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty addressed a joint session of Congress on June 29, 1960, during which His Majesty reaffirmed the strong