

(3) any combination of amounts described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 163—RECOGNIZING THE ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TEACHERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN BUILDING AND ENHANCING THE CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 163

Whereas education and knowledge are the foundation of the current and future strength of the United States;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have earned and deserve the respect of their students and communities for the selfless dedication of the teachers and staff to community service and the futures of the children of the United States;

Whereas the purposes of National Teacher Appreciation Week, celebrated from May 7, 2017, through May 13, 2017, are—

- (1) to raise public awareness of the unquantifiable contributions of teachers; and
- (2) to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession; and

Whereas students, schools, communities, and a number of organizations representing educators are hosting teacher appreciation events in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) thanks the teachers of the United States; and

- (2) promotes the profession of teaching by encouraging students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in teacher appreciation events during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 164—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SENIOR VOLUNTEERS AND DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 15 THROUGH 19, 2017, AS “NATIONAL SENIOR CORPS WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 164

Whereas volunteers in the United States who are 55 years of age and older (referred to in this preamble as “senior volunteers”) provide much-needed services to their communities, neighbors, and friends;

Whereas Senior Corps, through the RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companions

programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, provides meaningful opportunities to 250,000 senior volunteers and recruits thousands of additional community volunteers;

Whereas, for more than 5 decades, RSVP volunteers, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions have played an important role in strengthening communities by contributing their experience, knowledge, and accomplishments in order to—

- (1) help their neighbors recover from natural and manmade disasters;
- (2) provide nutrition services;
- (3) mentor and tutor schoolchildren;
- (4) support veterans and military families; and
- (5) provide respite care to caregivers;

Whereas, in 2016, Senior Corps volunteers provided 75,000,000 hours of direct service through more than 28,000 nonprofit, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide;

Whereas structured volunteering by senior volunteers—

- (1) keeps those senior volunteers active, healthy, and engaged;
- (2) helps the United States by saving taxpayer dollars and reducing health care costs; and
- (3) supports the ability of seniors to live independent and productive lives;

Whereas the RSVP, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion programs have proven to be cost-effective ways to engage senior volunteers in service that meets pressing community needs;

Whereas the United States should expand senior volunteer service opportunities to take advantage of the talents and experiences of the 10,000 baby boomers who will retire each day for the next 20 years; and

Whereas, at a time of mounting social need and growing interest in service by older individuals in the United States, the United States has an unprecedented opportunity to harness the talents of senior volunteers to address community challenges: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates the week of May 15 through 19, 2017, as “National Senior Corps Week”; and

- (2) encourages the people of the United States to recognize the contributions of senior volunteers and join in the celebration of National Senior Corps Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 165—CELEBRATING APRIL 30 THROUGH MAY 6, 2017, AS “NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK” AND COMMENDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESSES OWNERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COONS, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. ERNST, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 165

Whereas 2017 marks the 54th anniversary of National Small Business Week;

Whereas every President for more than ½ a century has proclaimed a week celebrating the significance of small businesses across the United States;

Whereas, as of May 2017, there are over 28,000,000 small businesses in the United States;

Whereas small businesses in the United States—

- (1) employ nearly ½ of the workforce of the United States;
- (2) comprise 99.7 percent of all employers in the United States;
- (3) employ veterans, and since 2007, 9.3 percent of all business owners have been veterans;
- (4) produce ⅓ of all exports of the United States; and
- (5) account for nearly ½ of private sector output;

Whereas, on July 30, 1953, Congress established the Small Business Administration to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the small business community;

Whereas 2 of every 3 new jobs are created by small businesses; and

Whereas the President designated the week of April 30 through May 6, 2017, as “National Small Business Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) supports the designation of the week of April 30 through May 6, 2017, as “National Small Business Week”;
- (2) celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of small business owners in the United States;
- (3) recognizes the importance of creating a small business climate that allows for sustained, entrepreneurial success;
- (4) celebrates the invaluable contribution that small businesses make to the United States as the backbone of the economy; and
- (5) supports increasing consumer awareness of the value and opportunity that small businesses bring to local communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 166—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, TO BE OBSERVED FROM MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 2017

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 166

Whereas, beginning in 1991, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as “National Recognition Day for Nurses”, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting fearlessly to protect the lives of individuals under the care of the nurses;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession, with an estimated population of 3,600,000 professionally active nurses in the United States;

Whereas nurses are leading in the delivery of quality care in a transformed health care system that improves patient outcomes and safety;

Whereas the Future of Nursing report of the Institute of Medicine has called for the nursing profession to meet the call for leadership in a team-based delivery model;

Whereas, when nurse staffing levels increase, the risk of patient complications and lengthy hospital stays decreases, resulting in cost savings;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and the work of nurses encompasses a

wide scope of scientific inquiry, including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses provide culturally and ethnically competent care and are educated to be sensitive to the regional and community customs of individuals needing care;

Whereas nurses are well-positioned to provide leadership to eliminate health care disparities that exist in the United States;

Whereas nurses are the cornerstone of the public health infrastructure, promoting healthy lifestyles and educating communities on disease prevention and health promotion;

Whereas nurses are strong allies to Congress as the nurses help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients for whom the nurses care;

Whereas strengthening nursing workforce development programs at all levels, including the number of doctorally prepared faculty members, and providing education to the nurse research scientists who can discover new nursing care models to improve the health status of the diverse population of the United States, are needed;

Whereas nurses touch the lives of the people of the United States from birth to the end of life; and

Whereas nursing has been voted as the most honest and ethical profession in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association;

(2) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 216. Mr. ALEXANDER (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 419, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 216. Mr. ALEXANDER (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 419, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers' Benefits program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvement Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REPORTS.

Section 1205 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting "Rules, regulations, and procedures issued under this part may include regulations based on standards developed by another Federal agency for programs related to public safety officer death or disability claims." before the last sentence;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting "(1)" before "In making"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) In making a determination under section 1201, the Bureau shall give substantial weight to the evidence and all findings of fact presented by a State, local, or Federal administrative or investigative agency regarding eligibility for death or disability benefits.

"(3) If the head of a State, local, or Federal administrative or investigative agency, in consultation with the principal legal officer of the agency, provides a certification of facts regarding eligibility for death or disability benefits, the Bureau shall adopt the factual findings, if the factual findings are supported by substantial evidence.";

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(e)(1)(A) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau information on all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

"(B) Not less frequently than once per week, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau updated information with respect to all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

"(C) The information made available under this paragraph shall include—

"(i) for each pending claim—

"(I) the date on which the claim was submitted to the Bureau;

"(II) the State of residence of the claimant;

"(III) an anonymized, identifying claim number; and

"(IV) the nature of the claim; and

"(ii) the total number of pending claims that were submitted to the Bureau more than 1 year before the date on which the information is made available.

"(2) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Bureau shall publish on the public website of the Bureau a report, and shall update such report on such website not less than once every 180 days thereafter, containing—

"(A) the total number of claims for which a final determination has been made during the 180-day period preceding the report;

"(B) the amount of time required to process each claim for which a final determination has been made during the 180-day period preceding the report;

"(C) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before that date for which a final determination has not been made;

"(D) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before the date that is 1 year before that date for which a final determination has not been made;

"(E) for each claim described in subparagraph (D), a detailed description of the basis for delay;

"(F) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before that date relating to exposure due to the September 11th, 2001, terrorism attacks for which a final determination has not been made;

"(G) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before the date that is 1 year before that date relat-

ing to exposure due to the September 11th, 2001, terrorism attacks for which a final determination has not been made;

"(H) for each claim described in subparagraph (G), a detailed description of the basis for delay;

"(I) the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau relating to exposure due to the September 11th, 2001, terrorism attacks for which a final determination was made during the 180-day period preceding the report, and the average award amount for any such claims that were approved;

"(J) the result of each claim for which a final determination was made during the 180-day period preceding the report, including the number of claims rejected and the basis for any denial of benefits;

"(K) the number of final determinations which were appealed during the 180-day period preceding the report, regardless of when the final determination was first made;

"(L) the average number of claims processed per reviewer of the Bureau during the 180-day period preceding the report;

"(M) for any claim submitted to the Bureau that required the submission of additional information from a public agency, and for which the public agency completed providing all of the required information during the 180-day period preceding the report, the average length of the period beginning on the date the public agency was contacted by the Bureau and ending on the date on which the public agency submitted all required information to the Bureau;

"(N) for any claim submitted to the Bureau for which the Bureau issued a subpoena to a public agency during the 180-day period preceding the report in order to obtain information or documentation necessary to determine the claim, the name of the public agency, the date on which the subpoena was issued, and the dates on which the public agency was contacted by the Bureau before the issuance of the subpoena; and

"(O) information on the compliance of the Bureau with the obligation to offset award amounts under section 1201(f)(3), including—

"(i) the number of claims that are eligible for compensation under both this part and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note; Public Law 107-42) (commonly referred to as the 'VCF');

"(ii) for each claim described in clause (i) for which compensation has been paid under the VCF, the amount of compensation paid under the VCF;

"(iii) the number of claims described in clause (i) for which the Bureau has made a final determination; and

"(iv) the number of claims described in clause (i) for which the Bureau has not made a final determination.

"(3) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and 2 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

"(A) conduct a study on the compliance of the Bureau with the obligation to offset award amounts under section 1201(f)(3); and

"(B) submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subparagraph (A) that includes an assessment of whether the Bureau has provided the information required under subparagraph (B)(ix) of paragraph (2) of this subsection in each report required under that paragraph.

"(4) In this subsection, the term 'nature of the claim' means whether the claim is a claim for—

"(A) benefits under this subpart with respect to the death of a public safety officer;

"(B) benefits under this subpart with respect to the disability of a public safety officer; or

"(C) education assistance under subpart 2."