

section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1774, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to reauthorize grant programs to improve the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of economic, high technology, Internet, and other white collar crimes.

S. 1783

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1808

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1808, a bill to extend temporarily the Federal Perkins Loan program, and for other purposes.

S. 1816

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1816, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to enhance fraud alert procedures and provide free access to credit freezes, and for other purposes.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1823, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that houses of worship are eligible for certain disaster relief and emergency assistance on terms equal to other eligible private nonprofit facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, a bill to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, supra.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 1829, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to extend the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

S. RES. 250

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 250, a resolution condemning horrific acts of violence against Burma's Rohingya population and calling on Aung San Suu Kyi to play an active role in ending this humanitarian tragedy.

S. RES. 265

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 265, a resolution designating September 22, 2017, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 266—RE-AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES-LIBERIA PARTNERSHIP, CALLING FOR FREE, FAIR, AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS IN LIBERIA IN OCTOBER 2017

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 266

Whereas the United States and Liberia share broad and deep bilateral ties over the course of a nearly 200-year relationship;

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with Liberia in 1864;

Whereas it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of Liberians died in the country's two interconnected civil wars from 1989 to 2003 and many more fled as refugees;

Whereas today the United States is home to an estimated 80,000 people of Liberian ancestry in vibrant communities across the country, many of whom sought refuge from the violence during the civil wars;

Whereas the people and Government of the United States have a deep and abiding interest in Liberia's democratic stability and post-conflict development;

Whereas United States assistance to Liberia since the end of its second civil war in 2003 has supported post-conflict recovery and a subsequent sustained transition toward broad-based economic growth, improved access to high-quality education, health system strengthening, enhanced socioeconomic

welfare for the people of Liberia, the professionalization of the country's military and civilian security forces, efforts to foster the capacities, accountability, and transparency of government institutions, and the consolidation of participatory democracy;

Whereas in 2005, and again in 2011, the citizens of Liberia elected Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as their President, making her the first woman to be elected president of an African nation;

Whereas President Sirleaf was awarded the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom on November 5, 2007, for defending and advancing the democratic rights of her fellow citizens, in the face of house arrest, foreign exile, death threats, and imprisonment, and the Noble Peace Prize on October 7, 2011, for contributing to the nonviolent struggle for the security and rights of women;

Whereas the Government of Liberia has contributed to efforts to foster peace, stability, democratization, as well as regional economic growth, development, and integration in West Africa, as demonstrated by President Sirleaf's role in mediating a peaceful transfer of power in the Gambia in January 2017 and her broader leadership as 2016–2017 Chairperson of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States;

Whereas Liberia will hold presidential and legislative elections on October 10, 2017;

Whereas successful 2017 elections are expected to lead to Liberia's first democratic transfer of power since 1944; and

Whereas public confidence in the electoral process is vital to advancing democracy in Liberia and for ensuring the success of the elections: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) upholds its commitment to maintain and foster the enduring relationship between the people and the Governments of the United States and Liberia;

(2) commends President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf for efforts to consolidate post-conflict peacebuilding and democratic gains, promote social and economic development, and foster ties with the international community, and for her work to advance international gender equality;

(3) urges the Government and people of Liberia and all of the country's political parties to—

(A) hold free, fair, credible, and peaceful elections in October 2017 and in the future;

(B) adhere to the objectives set out in the Ganta and Farmington River Declarations and promote and ensure peaceful conduct among candidates, their supporters, and Liberian citizens generally;

(C) ensure that there is robust civic education and electoral campaign outreach to often politically marginalized groups, including women, urban youth, and rural communities; and

(D) raise awareness of and express zero tolerance for violence against women, gender discrimination, or social bias of any nature in the electoral process;

(4) supports efforts by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to assist in election preparations;

(5) calls on Liberian citizens to fully participate in the general elections and to pursue legal avenues to resolve any disputes over the results;

(6) encourages Liberian civil society organizations to intensify civic and voter education, particularly among women, youth, and rural communities, and in local languages;

(7) condemns any external interference in the election, including any communication or action by convicted war criminal and

former armed faction leader Charles Taylor to influence the elections from prison;

(8) encourages President Donald Trump to appoint an Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs to bolster diplomatic engagement with the Government of Liberia, electoral stakeholders, and civil society and robustly engage with other sub-Saharan African countries and governments;

(9) calls upon the United States Government and international partners, especially election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to continue to support successful elections and Liberia's anticipated historic democratic post-electoral transition of executive power; and

(10) welcomes the visit of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to the United States Congress for her final address as President of Liberia.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 267—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2017 AS “NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 267

Whereas investment in the education and training of the United States workforce is crucial to the ability of the United States to compete in the global economy;

Whereas collaboration among local educational agencies, community colleges, Governors, local governments, local businesses, employment service providers, and workforce development boards provides for long-term, sustainable, and successful workforce development across traditional sectors and emerging industries;

Whereas, as of September 2017, middle-skill jobs, which require more than a high school diploma but not a 4-year degree, comprise 53 percent of the labor market, but only 43 percent of United States workers are trained at that level, creating a discrepancy that may limit growth in changing industries such as health care, manufacturing, and information technology;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress reauthorized the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) with overwhelming bipartisan support in recognition of the need to strengthen the focus of the United States on the skills necessary to fill jobs in local and regional industries;

Whereas the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) supports employment, training, and support services for individuals with barriers to employment, including individuals—

- (1) who are out of work;
- (2) displaced by outsourcing;
- (3) looking to learn new skills; and
- (4) with disabilities;

Whereas the more than 550 workforce development boards and 2,500 American Job Centers are a driving force behind growing regional economies by providing training, resources, and assistance to workers who aim to compete in the 21st century economy;

Whereas ongoing State and local implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) provides unprecedented opportunities to develop the skills of United States workers through access to effective workforce education and

training, including the development and delivery of proven strategies such as sector partnerships, career pathways, integrated education and training, work-based learning models, and paid internships;

Whereas, in 2015, programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)—

(1) served nearly 7,000,000 young people and adults;

(2) exceeded employment targets across all programs; and

(3) helped more than 1,500,000 individuals, including English language learners, take classes to gain skills and credentials to help the individuals succeed in the labor market;

Whereas State programs established under the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 49 et seq.)—

(1) served nearly 14,000,000 unemployed workers through American Job Centers in 2015; and

(2) are an integral part of the workforce development system;

Whereas workforce development programs will play a critical role in addressing the expected 2,000,000 unfilled manufacturing jobs over the next decade;

Whereas community colleges and other workforce development training providers across the United States are well-situated—

(1) to train the next generation of United States workers; and

(2) to address the educational challenges created by emerging industries and technological advancements;

Whereas participation in a career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) program decreases the risk of students dropping out of high school, and all 50 States and the District of Columbia report higher graduation rates for CTE students, as compared to other students;

Whereas community and technical colleges operate as open access institutions serving millions of students annually at a comparatively low cost;

Whereas the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) supports the development and implementation of high-quality CTE programs that—

(1) combine rigorous academic content with occupational skills; and

(2) served 11,900,000 high school and college students from 2015 to 2016;

Whereas there are nearly 500,000 registered apprentices in the United States, and there is growing and bipartisan support for expanding earn-and-learn strategies to help current and future workers gain skills and work experience;

Whereas federally supported workforce system and partner programs—

(1) have helped the United States rebuild the economy and provide increased economic opportunities; and

(2) provide a pathway into jobs that support families while ensuring that United States businesses find the skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

Whereas workforce development is crucial to sustaining economic security for United States workers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2017 as “National Workforce Development Month”;

(2) supports Federal initiatives to promote workforce development; and

(3) acknowledges that workforce development plays a crucial role in supporting workers and growing the economy.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution to recognize September as Workforce Development Month.

As technological advances reshape traditional fields and fuel the emergence of new industries, it is imperative that our workforce development system remain agile and flexible in order to educate and train the next generation of workers and those needing additional on-the-job training skills to stay competitive.

In addition, it is vital that we recognize the importance of all career pathways and professional development whether an individual pursues a 4-year degree or seeks to further their education at a community college, through an industry recognized certificate program, or as an apprentice.

In an effort to face this challenge head on, Congress passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in 2014 with overwhelming bipartisan support. WIOA was signed into law by President Obama and has helped streamline the workforce development system while increasing and strengthening partnerships between regional businesses, workforce development boards, and educational institutions.

In fact, it is these partnerships that have proven to be key to regional success at addressing the workforce needs of businesses. By working together, local businesses and educators can ensure that not only do businesses have access to the talent they need to grow but that those seeking work can find it.

Nationwide, the more than 550 workforce development boards and 2,500 American Job Centers have become a driving force behind growing regional economies by providing training, resources, and assistance to workers aiming to compete in the 21st century economy.

These workforce development boards and American Job Centers work with job seekers and employers across industries ranging from healthcare and information technology to manufacturing and construction.

There are currently nearly half a million registered apprentices across the country, including nearly fifty thousand in California alone.

Bipartisan support for earn-and-learn approaches such as apprenticeships and paid internships is critical for helping future workers gain the skills and experience they need while being able to provide for themselves and their families.

In recognition of workforce development month, Congress reaffirms its support for a comprehensive approach to workforce development, encourages partnerships between industry leaders and educators, and emphasizes the importance of all career pathways in pursuit of economic prosperity.

In closing, during this month it is essential that we acknowledge and commend the professionals who work every day to make these efforts a reality. America's workforce is the backbone of our economy and it is the expertise, dedication, and knowledge of these professionals that has helped develop such a robust system.