

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—DESIGNATING MARCH 22, 2018, AS “NATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY”

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

S. RES. 447

Whereas rehabilitation counselors support individuals with disabilities by—

- (1) conducting assessments;
- (2) providing counseling;
- (3) supporting families; and
- (4) assisting in the development of individualized plans for employment for individuals with disabilities who are in need of rehabilitation;

Whereas the purpose of professional organizations for rehabilitation counseling and education is to promote the improvement of rehabilitation services available to individuals with disabilities through quality education for counselors and rehabilitation research;

Whereas various professional organizations have vigorously advocated for up-to-date education and training and the maintenance of professional standards in the field of rehabilitation counseling and education, including—

- (1) the National Rehabilitation Association;
- (2) the Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association;
- (3) the National Council on Rehabilitation Education;
- (4) the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association;
- (5) the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association;
- (6) the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification;
- (7) the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation; and
- (8) the Council on Rehabilitation Education;

Whereas, in March of 1983, the president of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education testified before the Subcommittee on Select Education of the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and was instrumental in bringing to the attention of Congress the need for qualified rehabilitation counselors; and

Whereas credentialed rehabilitation counselors provide a higher quality of service to individuals in need of rehabilitation and the development of an accreditation system for rehabilitation counselors supports the continued education of rehabilitation counselors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates March 22, 2018, as “National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day”; and

- (2) commends—

(A) rehabilitation counselors for their dedication and hard work in providing counseling to individuals with disabilities who are in need of rehabilitation; and

(B) professional organizations for their efforts in assisting individuals with disabilities who are in need of rehabilitation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—DESIGNATING MARCH 2018 AS “NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN,

Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Whereas National Women’s History Month recognizes and spreads awareness of the importance of women in the history of the United States;

Whereas throughout the history of the United States, whether in the home, their workplace, school, the courts, or in wartime, women have fought for themselves, their families, and all people of the United States;

Whereas, even from the early days of the history of the United States, Abigail Adams urged her husband to “Remember the ladies” when representatives met for the Continental Congress in 1776;

Whereas women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the United States;

Whereas women led the efforts to secure suffrage and equal opportunity for women, and also served in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, labor movements, civil rights movements, and other causes to create a more fair and just society for all;

Whereas suffragists wrote, marched, were arrested, and ultimately succeeded in achieving the enactment of the 19th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, section 1 of which provides that “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex”, as well as the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), which extended the protection of the right to vote to women of color and language minorities;

Whereas women have been and continue to step up as leaders in the forefront of social change efforts, business, science, government, math, art, literature, music, film, athletics, and more;

Whereas women now represent approximately half of the workforce of the United States;

Whereas women once were routinely barred from attending medical schools of the United States, but now are enrolling in medical schools of the United States at higher numbers than men;

Whereas women previously were turned away from law school, but now represent approximately half of law students in the United States;

Whereas women have been vital to the mission of the Armed Forces since the American Revolution, serving in volunteer and enlisted positions, with more than 200,000 active-duty servicewomen and 2,000,000 veterans representing every branch of service;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 women own businesses in the United States;

Whereas Jeannette Rankin of Montana was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives in 1916 and Hattie Wyatt Caraway of Arkansas was the first woman elected to the United States Senate in 1932;

Whereas Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was the first woman to serve in both houses of Congress;

Whereas, in the 115th Congress, a record 22 women serve as United States Senators, and 89 women serve in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation designating March 2 through 8, 1980, as “National Women’s History Week”;

Whereas, in 1987, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced the first joint resolution to pass Congress designating “Women’s History Month”;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan issued the first “Women’s History Month” Presidential Proclamation in 1987; and

Whereas, despite the advancements of women in the United States, much remains to be done to ensure that women realize their full potential as equal members of society in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates March 2018 as “National Women’s History Month”;

(2) recognizes the celebration of “National Women’s History Month” as a time to reflect on the many notable contributions that women have made to the United States;

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe “National Women’s History Month” with appropriate programs and activities.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Women’s History Month to reflect on the remarkable contributions women have made to the United States and the challenges we must still face today to ensure women are able to realize their full potential as equal partners in American society.

For over 30 years, we have set aside this month to pay tribute to the amazing women who have fought tirelessly for themselves, their families, and all Americans.

I look back on their courage with great admiration and continue to be inspired by those who blazed the trail for women like me. When I first came to Washington in 1992, they called it the “Year of the Woman,” with four women being elected to the Senate. Today, we have a record 22 women serving in the United States Senate and 89 women serving in the House of Representatives.

Even at record levels, women only account for about 20 percent of the 115th Congress, which falls far short of the 51 percent of our nation’s population that are women.

Still, women have proven themselves as true political forces and I have great hope for the next generations of women who will also lead the way in building a better California and United States.

Women have been and continue to step up as leaders in the forefront of social change efforts, business, science, government, math, art, literature, music, film, athletics, and more.

Today, half of our workforce is made up of women and more than 10 million American businesses are women owned.

Where women were once turned away from attending medical and law schools, enrollment numbers are now almost evenly split between men and women.

Women have risen to the top of Fortune 500 companies and fill the domes of capitol and the halls of universities.

Women now also have a larger role in the U.S. Armed Forces, with more than 200,000 active-duty servicewomen proudly serving and 2 million veterans representing every branch of service.

My utmost respect goes out to these women warriors who selflessly answered the call to duty and served with honor, courage, and distinction.

As a United States Senator proudly representing California, I have seen first-hand some of the millions of outstanding women who achieve greatness.

As we celebrate the stories of American women who defied all odds to accomplish the unprecedented, we must also honor their legacies by continuing to defend the rights they worked so hard to achieve.

We have fought together on so many issues that affect women, families, and all Americans. During this month, I invite all women to pledge to continue this fight together and never relent on these important issues.

Thank you Mr. President and I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2018 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 449

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas while the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2018 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—REAFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES-EGYPT PARTNERSHIP AND THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO FREE, FAIR, CREDIBLE, AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 26, 2018

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

S. RES. 450

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Egypt have long-shared a strong bilateral working relationship;

Whereas respect for democracy, human rights, and civil liberties are fundamental principles of the United States and critical to our national security objectives;

Whereas the Government and people of Egypt have played a critical role in global and regional politics;

Whereas a strong United States-Egypt partnership is important for the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Middle East;

Whereas the people and Government of the United States have a deep and abiding interest in Egypt's prosperity, political progress, and long-term stability;

Whereas an inclusive government responsive to the needs of all of its citizens, including religious minorities, is vital for such stability and prosperity;

Whereas international and public confidence in any electoral process is an essential element for advancing inclusive, representative forms of government;

Whereas Egypt will hold a presidential election on March 26, 2018;

Whereas the Department of State's 2016 Human Rights Report noted that the 2015 parliamentary election raised “concern[s] about restrictions on freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression and their negative effect on the political climate surrounding elections”;

Whereas the same report notes that the 2014 presidential election raised “serious concerns regarding constraints on the freedoms of expression and association and limits on freedom of the press leading up to the election which prevented free political participation and severely compromised the broader electoral environment”;

Whereas the Government of Egypt, through legal action and a highly restrictive new law, has created a hostile environment for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), which provide essential services to the people of Egypt and for whom peaceful associa-

tion for civic activities is a fundamental right;

Whereas the United States Government reprogrammed and withheld some assistance to Egypt in August 2017 due in part to the inability to certify, as required by Congress, “that Egypt is advancing democracy and human rights”;

Whereas the Department of State, in an August 23, 2017, press briefing, reported that it was “unable to certify that Egypt is advancing democracy and human rights”;

Whereas, in January 2018, Department of State Spokesperson Heather Nauert affirmed that the United States supports “free and fair elections” in Egypt and said, “We support a timely and credible electoral process and believe it needs to include the opportunity for citizens to participate freely in Egyptian elections. We believe that that should include addressing restrictions on freedom of association, peaceful assembly, and also expression.”;

Whereas Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited Egypt on February 12, 2018, and stated during a joint press availability with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, “With the presidential elections planned for the end of March, the United States, as it does in all countries, supports a transparent and credible electoral process, and all citizens being given the right and the opportunity to participate freely and fairly.”;

Whereas President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, in a televised interview on September 16, 2016, with CBS Evening News, said, “We uphold the principles of respecting people, of honoring their rights.”;

Whereas President el-Sisi has asserted his commitment to term limits and free and fair elections over the years, stating in a CNBC interview on November 6, 2017, “There is no president who will sit in the chair without the will of the Egyptian people. . . the one that is in the president's seat will not be able to stay after the term allowed by the law and the constitution. And what determines this will be the vote of the Egyptian people.”;

Whereas all credible opposition candidates in Egypt's 2018 presidential election faced pressure, harassment, or arrest and subsequently withdrew their candidacies;

Whereas several prominent Egyptian opposition politicians released a statement on January 28, 2018, calling for Egyptians “to boycott these elections. . . not only for the absence of the idea of electoral competition, but also because [it] is an obvious first step toward changing the Constitution, removing the limit on presidential terms and eliminating all chances of a peaceful transfer of power”;

Whereas, in the same statement, these political figures went on to note that “the security and administrative practices taken by the current system [are intended] to prevent any fair competition in the upcoming elections. . . spreading a climate of security fear, media bias. . . and then with a tight schedule that does not provide a real opportunity for competitors to put themselves and their programs forward”;

Whereas the only current opposition candidate, Mr. Moussa Mostafa Moussa, is from the Al-Ghad party, which has no seats in parliament, and only a few days before declaring his candidacy led a campaign called “We Support” calling for el-Sisi's reelection: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reasserts its commitment to the United States-Egypt partnership and to advancing the common interests of both countries;

(2) recognizes that Egypt faces legitimate security threats and expresses condolences for the loss of life suffered by the Egyptian