

management. Today, more than one in five health care dollars and one in three Medicare dollars are spent on care for people with diabetes.

Under the current Medicare statute, physician assistants or nurse practitioners are required to refer their patients with diabetes to a physician in order to certify the patient's need for therapeutic shoes, which often results in delays in treatment and added costs. The Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act would fix this problem by allowing nurse practitioners and physician assistants to certify a Medicare beneficiary's need for therapeutic shoes, which will improve timeliness and access to care while reducing costs.

Therapeutic shoes are a cost effective, preventive treatment option intended to avoid the costly complications that can arise if maintenance of diabetic care is delayed or unavailable. Types of complications that can result from unmanaged diabetic symptoms include poor circulation, infections, and foot ulcers that can require hospitalization, or even result in the amputation of toes, feet, or legs.

In addition to preventable complications and additional costs that can result from delays in treatment, the current documentation requirement under Medicare can also disrupt the trusted patient-provider relationship many patients have with an NP or PA. Current statute requires the certifying physician to be a patient's provider for diabetic care moving forward, which is often in conflict with a patient's preference. Moreover, in rural areas, including many parts of my home state of Maine, access to diabetic management though a PA or NP is not only necessary, but it is sometimes unavoidable due to the shortage of primary care providers in the area. Maine alone has 68 designated Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care practitioners. These health care professionals are already providing accessible, high quality diabetic care across the country. In fact, a March 2018 article in the American Journal of Medicine concluded that PAs and NPs are able to perform as well as physicians in the management of diabetes at diagnosis through the first five years of follow-up care.

Stephanie Podolski, President of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants, which represents over 700 PAs in Maine, reiterated these points and the importance of the physician assistant profession in diabetes management in a letter of support for our bill saying, "In a State like Maine, there are many rural communities that at times are served only by a PA as a primary care provider (PCP). The inability to order diabetic shoes is an outdated barrier to care that impacts both middle-aged and older Americans who frequently live in areas facing provider shortages."

The Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act is endorsed by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the

American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the American Podiatric Medical Association. I am pleased to join Senator BROWN in introducing the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act, which will improve access to diabetic care, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2018, AS "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH SLAVERY LEGALLY CAME TO AN END IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 547

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150 years;

Whereas 45 States and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of de-

mocracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2018, as "Juneteenth Independence Day";

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS, PRODUCE A MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, REDUCE OPERATING COSTS, AND IMPROVE THE PRODUCTIVITY, COMFORT, AND HEALTH OF OCCUPANTS, AND DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JUNE 11 THROUGH JUNE 15, 2018, AS "HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK"

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 548

Whereas the term "high performance building" is defined in section 401 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17061) as "a building that integrates and optimizes on a life cycle basis all major high performance attributes, including energy conservation, environment, safety, security, durability, accessibility, cost-benefit, productivity, sustainability, functionality, and operational considerations";

Whereas, because individuals spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors and buildings are the single largest consumer of energy and water in the United States, built environments have a vast impact on virtually all aspects of life and national security in the United States;

Whereas the United States benefits technologically, economically, and environmentally from innovative technologies developed for use in high performance buildings;

Whereas research and programs that are supported by government entities and private industry and relate to high performance buildings benefit the United States and individuals in the United States; and

Whereas investing in resilient and robust building systems protects individuals and businesses in the United States from the impacts of man-made disasters and natural disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods, and earthquakes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of June 11 through June 15, 2018, as "High Performance Building Week"; and

(2) supports efforts to—

(A) improve the performance of existing and future buildings through—

(i) the adoption of best practices and voluntary consensus standards relating to commercial and residential buildings; and

(ii) participation by interested parties in—

(I) government programs, including those at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department of Energy;

(II) public-private partnerships; and

(III) private initiatives;

(B) create awareness of the beneficial impacts that high performance buildings have on communities, including reductions in operating costs, improvements in the health and productivity of occupants of high performance buildings, and enhancements in community resiliency;

(C) encourage interested parties to engage in dialogues on innovative policies and programs relating to the build environment that address needs relating to resiliency, workforce development, and energy and water efficiency;

(D) support investment in research and programs that incentivize investments in high performance commercial and residential buildings, as investment in high performance buildings is in the overall interests of the United States; and

(E) invest in training and education for, and celebrate the work of, engineers, architects, builders, code officials, tradespeople, design professionals, laborers, and others in the construction industry who work to advance high performance buildings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2018, AS “WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the Federal Government estimates that more than 1 in 10 persons over the age of 60 are victims of elder abuse each year;

Whereas abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults in the United States are unidentified and unreported because of an inability to report or a fear of reporting;

Whereas only 1 in 14 cases of financial abuse of older adults is reported;

Whereas at least \$2,900,000,000 is taken from older adults each year due to financial abuse and exploitation;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas older adults who are abused are 3 times more likely to die earlier than older adults of the same age who are not abused;

Whereas ½ of all older adults with dementia will experience abuse;

Whereas providing unwanted medical treatment can be a form of elder abuse and exploitation;

Whereas there is evidence of an increase in elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation linked to individuals with opioid addiction;

Whereas the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21701 et seq.) was signed into law on October 18, 2017, but there is still more that can be done to stop elder abuse;

Whereas financial abuse of older adults has consistently been one of the top 10 complaints made each year to the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate;

Whereas public awareness has the potential to increase the identification and reporting of elder abuse by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention;

Whereas private individuals and public agencies must work together on the Federal, State, and local levels to combat increasing occurrences of abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence against vulnerable older adults and vulnerable adults, particularly in light of limited resources for vital protective services; and

Whereas 2018 is the 13th anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 15, 2018, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes judges, lawyers, adult protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, long-term care ombudsmen, social workers, health care providers, professional guardians, advocates for victims, and other professionals and agencies for efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse; and

(3) encourages members of the public and professionals who work with older adults to act as catalysts to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse by reaching out to local adult protective services agencies, long-term care ombudsman programs, and the National Center on Elder Abuse, and by learning to recognize, detect, report, and respond to elder abuse.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40—RECOGNIZING THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN IN STRENGTHENING SUCH RELATIONSHIP

Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 40

Whereas Taiwan is—

(1) a free, democratic, and prosperous nation of 23,000,000 people; and

(2) an important contributor to peace and stability around the world;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.)—

(1) states that it is the policy of the United States “to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan”;

(2) states “Programs, transactions, and other relations conducted or carried out by the President or any agency of the United States Government with respect to Taiwan shall, in the manner and to the extent directed by the President, be conducted and carried out by or through ... the American Institute in Taiwan”;

(3) established the American Institute in Taiwan, which is responsible for—

(A) managing unofficial United States relations with Taiwan; and

(B) implementing United States policy toward Taiwan, including a wide range of activities such as commercial services, agricultural sales, consular services, and cultural exchanges;

Whereas the 3 pillars of the American Institute in Taiwan’s mission are—

(1) security and defense cooperation;

(2) commercial and economic relations; and

(3) people-to-people ties;

Whereas the American Institute in Taiwan—

(1) will open its new office complex in Taipei on June 12, 2018, which—

(A) consists of 14,934 square meters of office space constructed at a cost of \$250,000,000, underscoring the United States’ commitment to its relationship with Taiwan;

(B) will allow all of its sections and operations in Taipei to be co-located in a modern, secure, and energy efficient facility;

(C) was built with a combination of materials from the United States and Taiwan;

(D) will be staffed by a workforce of approximately 500 employees from the United States, Taiwan, and other countries; and

(E) will host a permanent “Art in AIT” collection of works by United States and Taiwan artists that embodies the artistic and cultural confluences of innumerable person-to-person ties that link Taiwan and the United States;

(2) also has a branch office in Kaohsiung, which has more than 30 employees; and

(3) processed 34,000 visas in 2017;

Whereas President Tsai Ing-wen visited the American Institute of Taiwan on May 15, 2018 and plans to attend its official opening on June 12, 2018;

Whereas since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016, the Government of the People’s Republic of China has intensified its efforts to exclude Taiwan from international organizations;

Whereas in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, the United States declared its intention to support Taiwan’s participation in appropriate international organizations;

Whereas Taiwan is a full member of the World Trade Organization, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and the Asian Development Bank;

Whereas according to the Department of State, “the United States supports Taiwan’s membership in international organizations that do not require statehood as a condition of membership and encourages Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organizations where its membership is not possible”;

Whereas Taiwan maintains full diplomatic relations with 18 nations around the world;

Whereas on February 28, 2018, the United States Senate unanimously passed the Taiwan Travel Act (Public Law 115-135), which was signed into law on March 16, 2018, declaring that it should be the policy of the United States to allow officials at all levels of the United States Government to visit Taiwan in their official capacities; and

Whereas the United States National Security Strategy, which was released in December 2017, states: “We will maintain our strong ties with Taiwan in accordance with our ‘One China’ policy, including our commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act to provide for Taiwan’s legitimate defense needs and deter coercion.”;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) welcomes the opening of the new American Institute of Taiwan office in Taipei, which will—

(A) cultivate the relationship between the United States and Taiwan; and

(B) further demonstrate the United States’ commitment to bolstering its friendship and its commercial and defense partnership with Taiwan;

(2) recognizes that the American Institute of Taiwan—

(A) reflects the democratic values shared by the United States and Taiwan; and