

As we do so, we need to remember that we already have merit-based programs built into our existing immigration laws. The problem is those programs aren't working the way they are supposed to. They are not properly aligned with employer needs, and in their current set-up, there is too much room for waste and abuse.

My I-Squared bill will fix both of those problems. It will help ensure we have the talent in our country that we need to succeed. It will also help equip the next generation of Americans to meet the demands of our increasingly tech-driven economy.

I-Squared will also help put an end to the troubling abuses we have seen in the H-1B program and ensure that the program is used as it was intended—to supplement, not replace, American labor.

I repeat what I said at the outset: High-skilled immigration is merit-based immigration. It is immigration targeted at the best, the brightest, and the most highly educated.

As we debate how to improve our immigration system, let us keep in mind that we already have merit-based programs in our existing laws. Thinking outside the box is important, but it is also important not to overlook what is right here in front of us.

My I-Squared bill will help ensure that we have a high-skilled immigration system that works, that meets employer needs, that keeps America competitive, and that prepares the next generation of Americans to succeed. It is commonsense legislation; It is balanced legislation; and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2345. A bill to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to provide additional resources to State and local prosecutors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2345

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Justice Served Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. PROSECUTION OF DNA COLD CASES.

(a) DEBBIE SMITH DNA BACKLOG GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(9) To increase the capacity of State and local prosecution offices to address the backlog of violent crime cases in which suspects have been identified through DNA evidence.”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

“(5) ALLOCATION OF GRANT AWARDS FOR PROSECUTORS.—For each fiscal year, not less than 5 percent, but not more than 7 percent, of the grant amounts distributed under paragraph (1) shall, if sufficient applications to justify such amounts are received by the Attorney General, be awarded for purposes described in subsection (a)(9), provided that none of the funds required to be distributed under this paragraph shall decrease or otherwise limit the availability of funds required to be awarded to States or units of local government under paragraph (3).”

(b) PROSECUTION OF COLD CASES.—Of the amounts made available to the Attorney General under section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701) for a DNA Analysis and capacity enhancement program and for other local, State, and Federal forensic activities for the purpose described in section 2 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701) under the heading “STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE” under the heading “OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE” in fiscal years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 not less than 5 percent, but not more than 7 percent, of such amounts shall be provided for grants for prosecutors to increase the capacity of State and local prosecution offices to address the cold cases involving violent crime, where suspects have been identified through DNA evidence.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 381—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 21 THROUGH JANUARY 27, 2018, AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK”

Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 381

Whereas providing a diversity of choices in K-12 education empowers parents to select education environments that meet the individual needs and strengths of their children;

Whereas high-quality K-12 education environments of all varieties are available in the United States, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online academies, and home schooling;

Whereas talented teachers and school leaders in each of the education environments prepare children to achieve their dreams;

Whereas more families than ever before in the United States actively choose the best education for their children;

Whereas more public awareness of the issue of parental choice in education can inform additional families of the benefits of proactively choosing challenging, motivating, and effective education environments for their children;

Whereas the process by which parents choose schools for their children is non-political, nonpartisan, and deserves the utmost respect; and

Whereas hundreds of organizations, more than 9,000 schools, and millions of individuals in the United States celebrate the benefits of educational choice during the 8th annual National School Choice Week, held the week of January 21 through January 27, 2018: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of January 21 through January 27, 2018, as “National School Choice Week”;

(2) congratulates students, parents, teachers, and school leaders from K-12 education environments of all varieties for their persistence, achievements, dedication, and contributions to society in the United States;

(3) encourages all parents, during National School Choice Week, to learn more about the education options available to them; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during National School Choice Week to raise public awareness of the benefits of opportunity in education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 382—SUPPORTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 382

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the Nation by providing a diverse student population from all regions of the country and all socio-economic backgrounds a strong academic and moral foundation, including 41.4 percent of students from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds and 19 percent from non-Catholic families;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold “helping others” among their core values;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2017-2018 academic year is almost 1,900,000 and the student-teacher ratio is 12 to 1;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate is 99 percent, with 86 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges;

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, “Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.”;

Whereas the week of January 28, 2018, to February 3, 2018, has been designated as National Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and January 31, 2018, has been designated National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools;

Whereas the National Catholic Schools Week was first established in 1974 and has been celebrated annually for the past 44 years;

Whereas while Catholic schools must work hard to maintain enrollment, the demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools remains strong;

Whereas 30 percent of Catholic schools have waiting lists for admission and new schools are opening across the country; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2018 is Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all can celebrate; and

(3) supports the continued dedication of Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States toward academic excellence, and supports the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the Nation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1920. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1873, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1920. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. BLUNT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1873, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 15 through 18 and insert the following:

(1) Not later than December 31, 2018, at not fewer than 25 medical centers of the Department.

(2) Not later than December 31, 2019, at not fewer than 50 medical centers of the Department.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Sen-

ate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Global Challenges and the U.S. National Security Strategy."

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "CFIUS Reform: Administration Perspectives on the essential elements."

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "This is Not a Drill: An Examination of the Wireless Emergency Alert System."

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., at the Washington Convention Center, to conduct a hearing entitled "Road to Tomorrow: Energy Innovation in Automotive Technologies."

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Access and Innovation."

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Frank T. Brogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on subcommittee assignments and the following nominations: Kurt D. Engelhardt, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Barry W. Ashe, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Howard C. Niel-

son, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, James R. Sweeney II, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Indiana, and John C. Anderson, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, Brandon J. Fremin, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, and David G. Jolley, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Tennessee, all of the Department of Justice.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Combatting the Opioid Crisis: Exploiting Vulnerabilities in the International Mail."

VETERAN PARTNERS' EFFORTS TO ENHANCE REINTEGRATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1873 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1873) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the Blunt amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1920) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the timeline for establishment of the program)

On page 2, strike lines 15 through 18 and insert the following:

(1) Not later than December 31, 2018, at not fewer than 25 medical centers of the Department.

(2) Not later than December 31, 2019, at not fewer than 50 medical centers of the Department.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass?