

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—(1) An officer or employee of the Department shall receive corrective action or disciplinary action if such officer or employee—

“(A) has, while serving as such an officer or employee, owned any interest in, or received any wage, salary, dividend, profit, or gift from, any educational institution operated for profit; or

“(B) has, while serving as a covered officer or employee of the Department, received any service from any educational institution operated for profit.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘covered officer or employee of the Department’ means an officer or employee of the Department who—

“(A) works on the administration of benefits under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, or 36 of this title; or

“(B) has a potential conflict of interest involving an educational institution operated for profit, as determined by the Secretary.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “If the Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(b) STATE APPROVING AGENCY EMPLOYEES.—If the Secretary”;

(B) by striking “wages, salary, dividends, profits, gratuities, or services” and inserting “wage, salary, dividend, profit, or gift”;

(C) by striking “in which an eligible person or veteran was pursuing a program of education or course under this chapter or chapter 34 or 35 of this title”;

(D) by striking “terminate the employment of” and inserting “provide corrective action or disciplinary action with respect to”;

(E) by striking “while such person is an officer or employee of the State approving agency, or State department of veterans’ affairs or State department of education” and inserting “until the completion of such corrective action or disciplinary action”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “A State approving agency” and inserting the following:

“(c) DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES.—A State approving agency”;

(B) by striking “of Veterans Affairs”;

(C) by striking “wages, salary, dividends, profits, gratuities, or services” and inserting “wage, salary, dividend, profit, or gift”;

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary may” and inserting the following:

“(d) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—(1) The Secretary may”;

(B) by striking “of Veterans Affairs”;

(C) by striking “, after reasonable notice and public hearings,”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary shall provide public notice of any waiver granted under this subsection by not later than 30 days after the date on which such waiver is granted.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to conflicts of interest that occur on or after that date.

SEC. 303. MODIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICULAR LEASES RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS.

Section 2(h)(1) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-226) is amended by striking “any lease or land-sharing agreement at the Campus” and inserting “any new lease or land-sharing agreement at the Campus that is not in compliance with such laws”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 631—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AND VOTING RIGHTS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 631

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have historically been denied the right to vote;

Whereas, after serving in World War II and returning home, many American Indian veterans were not able to vote;

Whereas, on July 15, 1946, in *Harrison v. Laveen*, Chief Justice Levi S. Udall of the Arizona Supreme Court ruled that Maricopa County, Arizona, must allow Mohave-Apache Indians to register to vote, overruling decades of precedent in which the State of Arizona prohibited American Indians from voting;

Whereas, in holding that American Indians were entitled to the franchise, Chief Justice Udall noted that, “[i]n a democracy suffrage is the most basic civil right, since its exercise is the chief means whereby other rights may be safeguarded. To deny the right to vote, where one is legally entitled to do so, is to do violence to the principles of freedom and equality.”;

Whereas, in New Mexico in 1948, Miguel Trujillo, a Marine Corps veteran and Isleta Pueblo tribal member, was turned away from registering to vote because he was living on a reservation;

Whereas, in 1948, the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico struck down limitations in the State Constitution of New Mexico that prevented those who lived on reservations from voting;

Whereas, prior to 1968, American Indians were not provided the same protections as other citizens under the United States Constitution;

Whereas, in 1968, Congress passed the Indian Civil Rights Act “to ensure that the American Indian is afforded the broad constitutional rights secured to other Americans”;

Whereas Alaska was the last state to enfranchise American Indian voters in 1970;

Whereas, even though American Indians and Alaska Natives currently have the lawful right to vote across the United States, they continue to face barriers and obstacles to voting;

Whereas some American Indians and Alaska Natives in Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, Minnesota, South Dakota, and other states may have to travel 50 to 400 miles to vote;

Whereas the Native American vote continues to play a significant role in local, State, and national elections;

Whereas, in states such as Alaska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and South Dakota, American Indians and Alaska Natives comprise 10 percent or more of the voting-age population;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives serve in the United States military at a higher per capita rate than any other ethnic group; and

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are an important part of the history of the United States, and vibrant contributors to the social and political fabric of the United States; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the 50th anniversary of title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (25 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.; commonly known as the “Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968”); and

(2) recognizes the important contributions of Native Americans to expanding voting rights for all citizens of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 632—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS “NATIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 632

Whereas investment in the education, training, and career advancement of the workforce in the United States, known as “workforce development”, is crucial to the ability of the United States to compete in the global economy;

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

Whereas 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 workers in the United States 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—

- (1) individuals who are low-income;
- (2) individuals who are out of work;
- (3) individuals displaced by outsourcing;
- (4) individuals looking to learn new skills;

and

- (5) individuals 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 workers in the United States 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 2016, programs authorized under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)—

- (1) served more than 7,000,000 young people and adults;
- (2) exceeded employment targets across all programs; and

(3) helped more than 1,300,000 individuals, including English language learners, 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) ensured that more than 5,400,000 unemployed workers, including more than 800,000 veterans, had access to career services through American Job Centers in 2016; and

(2) are a foundational 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 workers in the United States; 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 approximately 11,000,000 high school and college students from 2016 to 2017;

Whereas there are more than 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 the federally supported workforce system and partner programs—

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2018 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.” I thank Senators Hatch, Enzi, and Baldwin for supporting this bipartisan resolution.

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 four 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 (WIOA) 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.

And more recently, Congress passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which was later signed into law by President Trump. This law aims to increase collaboration between high schools, community colleges, and workforce development programs. In addition, this law supports work-based learning opportunities, provides industry-recognized credentials, and increases federal funding for CTE programs.

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 over half a million registered apprentices across the country, including nearly eighty-six 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.

Mr. President, I hope this resolution will promptly pass the Senate. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution to ensure its passage and encouraging the continued growth of our workforce development system. Thank you. I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 633—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REMAINS AN INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO PRIVATIZATION

Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. JONES, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 633

Whereas Congress has the authority to establish post offices and post roads under clause 7 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is a self-sustaining, independent establishment that relies on revenue derived from the sale of postal services and products, not on taxpayer funds;

Whereas the United States Postal Service and the more than 500,000 employees of the United States Postal Service are at the center of the \$1,400,000,000,000 mailing industry, which employs a total of 7,500,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas the United States Postal Service serves the needs of 157,000,000 business and residential customers not less than 6 days a week, maintains an affordable and universal network, and connects the rural, suburban, and urban communities of the United States;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is consistently the highest-rated agency of the Federal Government in nonpartisan opinion polls;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is the second largest employer of veterans in the United States;

Whereas the employees of the United States Postal Service—

(1) are dedicated public servants who do more than process and deliver the mail of the people of the United States; and

(2) serve as the eyes and ears of the communities of the United States and often respond first in situations involving health, safety, and crime in those communities; and

Whereas the privatization of the United States Postal Service would—

(1) result in higher prices and reduced services for the customers of the United States Postal Service, especially in rural communities;