

(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;

(2) jeopardize the booming e-commerce sector; and

(3) cripple a major part of the critical infrastructure of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is 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 in whole or in part.

SENATE RESOLUTION 634—COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT AND HONORING THE VETERANS OF OPERATION VITTTLES

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 634

Whereas in the spring of 1948, Berlin was isolated within the Soviet occupation zone, and there were only 35 days' worth of food and 45 days' worth of coal remaining for the city;

Whereas military planners in the United States and the United Kingdom determined that—

(1) 1,534 tons of flour, wheat, fish, milk, and other food items would be required daily to feed the 2,000,000 residents of Berlin; and

(2) 3,475 tons of coal and gasoline would be required daily to keep the city of Berlin heated and powered;

Whereas on June 1, 1948, the United States Air Force created the Military Air Transport Service, the predecessor to the Air Mobility Command, to organize and conduct airlift missions;

Whereas on June 26, 1948, Operation Vittles began when 32 C-47 Dakotas of the United States Air Force departed West Germany for Berlin hauling 80 tons of cargo;

Whereas the first British aircraft involved in Operation Vittles launched on June 28, 1948;

Whereas Major General William H. Tunner, a veteran of the aerial supply line over the Himalayas during World War II, took command of Operation Vittles on July 28, 1948;

Whereas Major General Tunner pioneered many new and innovative tactics and procedures for the airlift, including creating air corridors for ingress and egress, staggering the altitudes at which aircraft flew, and implementing instrument flight rules that allowed aircraft to land as frequently as every 3 minutes;

Whereas one pilot, 1st Lieutenant Gail S. Halvorsen, who became known as the "Candy Bomber", initiated Operation Little Vittles to bring hope to the children of Berlin by dropping handkerchief parachutes containing chocolate and chewing gum as a symbol of the goodwill of the United States;

Whereas Operation Little Vittles ultimately dropped more than 3 tons of candy in more than 250,000 miniature parachutes;

Whereas on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, airlifters reached the pinnacle of Operation Vittles by delivering 13,000 tons of cargo, including the equivalent of 600 railroad cars full of coal, and setting the record for tonnage of cargo delivered in a single day during the Berlin Airlift;

Whereas 39 British airmen and 31 American airmen made the ultimate sacrifice during the Berlin Airlift and 8 British aircraft and 17 American aircraft were lost;

Whereas airlifters delivered more than 2,300,000 tons of food and supplies during 278,228 total flights into Berlin;

Whereas the Soviet Union was forced to lift the blockade of Berlin in light of the success of the 15-month airlift operation;

Whereas the Berlin Airlift marked the first use of airpower to provide hope and humanitarian assistance and to win a strategic victory against enemy aggression and intimidation;

Whereas the enormous effort and cooperation of the Berlin Airlift helped overcome years of animosity between the United States and Germany and laid the foundation for a deep and lasting friendship between the people of the two countries; and

Whereas today Germany is one of the closest and strongest allies of the United States in Europe, based on the close and vital relationship of the two countries as friends, trading partners, and allies sharing common values and institutions that promote stability in political, economic, and security matters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift, the largest and longest running humanitarian airlift operation in history;

(2) honors the service and sacrifice of the men and women who participated in and supported the Berlin Airlift;

(3) applauds the men and women of the Air Mobility Command of the United States Air Force, who, in keeping with the best traditions of the Berlin Airlift, still work diligently to provide hope, save lives, and deliver freedom around the world in support of the foreign policy objectives of the United States; and

(4) commends the close friendship forged between the people of the United States and Germany through the Berlin Airlift, which helps sustain the transatlantic alliance to this day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 635—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED MYANMAR JOURNALISTS WA LONE AND KYAW SOE OO, AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE OVERALL DETERIORATION IN FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN MYANMAR

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 635

Whereas the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States enshrines press freedom as a foundational element of American democracy, declaring that "Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press";

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on December 10, 1948, by the United Nations General Assembly, enshrines press freedom as a vital aspect of universal human rights;

Whereas the Department of State's annual Human Rights Report on Burma for the year 2017 states that—

(1) "legal provisions that allow the government to manipulate the courts for political ends, and these provisions were sometimes used to deprive citizens of due process and the right to a fair trial, particularly with regards to the freedom of expression";

(2) "The government continued to detain and arrest journalists, activists, and critics

of the government and the military during the year."; and

(3) "Threats against and arrests of journalists increased . . . Freedom of expression was more restricted during the year compared with 2016. This included a higher number of detentions of journalists using various laws, including laws carrying more severe punishments than those used previously.";

Whereas, according to PEN America, the discontinuation of Radio Free Asia's broadcasting in Myanmar on a domestic channel constitutes a further shrinking of the space for free expression in the country;

Whereas, additionally, PEN America reports that—

(1) there continues to be increased legal threats, imprisonment and physical harassment of journalists;

(2) there continues to be restrictions on the ability to report from and receive information on conflict areas; and

(3) the lack of reform of media laws and institutions driving a decline in media freedom;

Whereas, beginning in late August 2017, a concerted campaign directed by the Tatmadaw, the official name of the armed forces of Myanmar, was carried out to assault, kill, rape, burn villages, and force Rohingya to flee from Myanmar to Bangladesh;

Whereas approximately 700,000 Rohingya people have fled Myanmar in a period of almost 12 months;

Whereas a 160-page report issued July 19, 2018, by the human rights organization Fortify Rights finds that at least 27 Myanmar Army battalions, comprising up to 11,000 soldiers, along with at least three combat police battalions, comprising an estimated 900 police personnel, were involved in the attacks in northern Rakhine State beginning in August 2017, and further finds that these attacks constitute "preparatory action for genocide and crimes against humanity" and finds "that there are 'reasonable grounds' to believe the Myanmar Army, Myanmar Police Force, border guards, and non-Rohingya civilian perpetrators committed atrocities that constitute genocide and crimes against humanity and should be held liable for those crimes";

Whereas earlier Fortify Rights reports have documented the systematic use of torture by Myanmar authorities against Kachin civilians in Kachin State and northern Shan State from June 2011 to April 2014;

Whereas the August 2018 United Nations report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar Report states, in paragraph 87 that "the Mission concluded [. . .] that there is sufficient information to warrant the investigation and prosecution of senior officials in the Tatmadaw chain of command, so that a competent court can determine their liability for genocide in relation to the situation in Rakhine State";

Whereas, on August 28, 2018, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley reported to the United Nations Security Council that the Department of State had conducted interviews with 1,024 Rohingya refugees in camps throughout Cox's Bazar refugee camp and that the results of the interviews were consistent with the United Nations Independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar;

Whereas, on September 2, 2017, as part of this brutal campaign, Myanmar security forces aided by local Buddhist villagers in the village of Inn Din in Rakhine state detained and then murdered 10 Rohingya men;

Whereas, Reuters, a highly reputable worldwide news gathering organization, discovered this atrocity as part of its ongoing