

Whereas visitation to the National Wildlife Refuge System increased by nearly 30 percent from 2006 to 2017;

Whereas, in 2018, 377 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 312 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have fishing programs, averaging more than 2,400,000 hunting visits and more than 7,300,000 fishing visits each year;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experienced more than 31,400,000 wildlife observation visits during fiscal year 2017;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses every kind of ecosystem in the United States, including temperate, tropical and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, and remote islands, and spans 12 time zones from the Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal land on which the production, migration, and wintering habitat for waterfowl are fostered;

Whereas, since 1934, the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts has generated more than \$850,000,000, which has enabled the purchase or lease of more than 5,700,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas refuges provide protection to more than 380 threatened and endangered species;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are cores of conservation for larger landscapes and resources for other agencies of the Federal Government, State governments, private landowners, and organizations in efforts to secure the wildlife heritage of the United States;

Whereas more than 38,000 volunteers and approximately 200 national wildlife refuge "Friends" organizations contribute more than 1,350,000 volunteer hours annually, the equivalent of 650 full-time employees, and provide an important link to local communities;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas and there is a refuge located within a 1-hour drive of every metropolitan area in the United States, which has enabled national wildlife refuges to employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the week beginning on October 14, 2018, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week"; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected land: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 14, 2018, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week";

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) finds that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

(6) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation, the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, and compatible uses;

(7) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(8) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(9) expresses the intent of the Senate—
(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 676—TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 676

Whereas, in 1945, Congress passed the Joint Resolution of August 11, 1945 (59 Stat. 530, chapter 363), to establish the first week in October of each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week";

Whereas, in 1988, Congress passed the Handicapped Programs Technical Amendments Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-630; 102 Stat. 3289), which designated October of each year as "National Disability Employment Awareness Month";

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 61,000,000 people in the United States have a disability;

Whereas, among people with disabilities in the United States, 33 percent participate in the workforce;

Whereas the unemployment rate for people with a disability is higher than for people without a disability across all educational attainment groups;

Whereas community-based, integrated employment at competitive wages is a human right and vital to economic self-sufficiency in the United States;

Whereas Employment First is a national movement, supported by the Department of Labor, that supports the belief that all people, including people with significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in competitive integrated employment and community living;

Whereas, under Employment First policies, State and Federal systems align services, incentives, and policies for youth and adults with disabilities to lead to community-based, integrated employment at competitive wages;

Whereas, when provided the accommodations and support they need, people with disabilities as a group are capable of performing virtually any job in the United States;

Whereas Congress has enacted laws to ensure people with disabilities are not discriminated against in employment, have access to supports and services to find and keep a job, and are entitled to accommodations in the workplace, including—

(1) in 1973, when Congress enacted the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), a landmark civil rights law that—

(A) prohibits discrimination on the basis of a disability in employment by the Federal Government and Federal contractors;

(B) requires the Federal Government and Federal contractors to engage in affirmative action to promote the employment and advancement of people with disabilities; and

(C) established programs administered by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Education, including vocational rehabilitative services administered by State agencies;

(2) in 1975, when Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975 (Public Law 94-142; 89 Stat. 773), later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), that requires public schools to provide all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, including services to assist students with disabilities as those students transition from high school to higher education or the workforce;

(3) in 1990, when Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), a landmark civil rights law that prohibits employment discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities, mandates reasonable accommodations in the workplace, and requires public entities to provide services (including employment services) in the most integrated setting;

(4) in 2008, when Congress enacted the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), a landmark civil rights law that prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of genetic information;

(5) in 2014, when Congress enacted the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) to strengthen and improve the workforce system of the United States to better support people with disabilities by—

(A) focusing on increasing competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities;

(B) limiting the use of discriminatory subminimum wages; and

(C) requiring that 15 percent of vocational rehabilitation funds be used to help people with disabilities transition from high school to higher education or the workforce;

(6) in 2014, when Congress extended the work opportunity tax credit program to encourage the hiring of people with disabilities referred by vocational rehabilitation agencies; and

(7) in 2018, when Congress reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) to increase the focus on and funding for recruiting and supporting individuals with disabilities through career and technical education;

Whereas the Federal Government is the largest employer in the United States and has taken steps to increase recruitment, hiring, and retention of people with disabilities in the Federal workforce, including when—

(1) on July 26, 2000, President William J. Clinton issued Executive Order 13163 (29 U.S.C. 791 note; relating to increasing the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to

be employed in the Federal Government), which set the goal for the Federal Government to hire 100,000 people with disabilities over 5 years, including individuals with targeted disabilities;

(2) on July 26, 2010, President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13548 (29 U.S.C. 791 note; relating to increasing Federal employment of individuals with disabilities), which directed the Federal Government to take additional steps to achieve the hiring goals of Executive Order 13163 (29 U.S.C. 791 note; relating to increasing the opportunity for individuals with disabilities to be employed in the Federal Government), including—

(A) directing the Office of Personnel Management to design model recruitment and hiring strategies for Federal agencies to increase the employment of people with disabilities; and

(B) directing each Federal agency to develop a plan for that agency for promoting employment opportunities for people with disabilities, with—

(i) performance measures and numerical goals for the employment of individuals with disabilities and targeted disabilities; and

(ii) a focus on the retention of employees with disabilities;

(3) on August 18, 2011, President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13583 (42 U.S.C. 2000e note; relating to establishing a coordinated government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the Federal workforce), which prompted the Office of Personnel Management to encourage the use of Schedule A hiring authority for people with disabilities, conduct barrier analyses, and support Special Emphasis Programs to promote diversity in the workforce;

(4) on May 14, 2015, President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13658 (79 Fed. Reg. 9851; relating to establishing a minimum wage for contractors (February 20, 2014)), which required certain Federal Government contractors to pay the same minimum wage to workers with disabilities as all other workers;

(5) the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in implementing the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), required Federal agencies to set hiring and workforce goals for people with specific disabilities that are associated with high rates of unemployment and underemployment;

(6) the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission created the Leadership for the Employment of Americans with Disabilities (or “LEAD”) Initiative to encourage Federal agencies to recruit, hire, and promote people with severe disabilities; and

(7) the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of the Department of Labor, in implementing the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), established a nationwide 7 percent utilization goal for Federal contractors employing people with disabilities;

Whereas some private employers see disability employment not only as a civil rights issue but also as a smart business strategy, and have recruited employees with disabilities;

Whereas employing people with disabilities increases the diversity of the workforce;

Whereas employers with diverse workforces have been found to have an advantage over competitors;

Whereas Employment First policies, the laws Congress has enacted, actions by Executive agencies, and actions by some private companies have increased the employment of people with disabilities, which has, in part, resulted in 26 consecutive months of improvement in disability employment in the period between March 2016 and May 2018; and

Whereas, despite progress, unemployment and underemployment of workers with disabilities remains high: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month;

(2) urges Congressional offices, Federal Executive agencies, State and local government employers, and private employers to redouble their efforts to increase employment of people with disabilities; and

(3) encourages individuals, employers, cities, counties, and States to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month with appropriate programs and activities that increase the recruitment, hiring, and retention of people with disabilities to the workforce.

SENATE RESOLUTION 677—CONGRATULATING THE SEATTLE STORM WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2018 WOMEN’S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 677

Whereas, on September 12, 2018, the Seattle Storm women’s basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the “Seattle Storm”) won the 2018 Women’s National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the “WNBA”) championship;

Whereas the 2018 WNBA championship is the third national championship that the Seattle Storm has won and the first national championship that team has won since 2010;

Whereas the Seattle Storm beat the Washington Mystics women’s basketball team in the WNBA finals and bested the Phoenix Mercury women’s basketball team in the WNBA conference finals;

Whereas the Seattle Storm became the sixth team in the history of the WNBA to sweep the WNBA finals in three games;

Whereas the Seattle Storm dominated the regular season, with the best record of any team in the WNBA of 26–8, and earned the top seed;

Whereas the Seattle Storm championship team exhibited stellar teamwork from its 12 highly talented professional athletes, including Sue Bird, Breanna Stewart, Natasha Howard, Jewell Loyd, Alysha Clark, Sami Whitcomb, Jordyn Canada, Crystal Langhorne, Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, Noelle Quinn, Courtney Paris, and Mercedes Russell;

Whereas Breanna Stewart received the 2018 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player award and the 2018 WNBA League Most Valuable Player award;

Whereas Natasha Howard received the 2018 WNBA Most Improved Player award;

Whereas Sue Bird received the 2018 WNBA Kim Perrot Sportsmanship award, finished her 16th season in the WNBA, led the WNBA with 2,831 career assists, and became the All-Time Games Played leader in the WNBA;

Whereas the Seattle Storm was led during the 2018 season by Head Coach Dan Hughes and Assistant Coaches Gary Kloppenburg, Ryan Webb, and Crystal Robinson;

Whereas the players of the Seattle Storm were supported during the 2018 season by exceptionally committed operational and medical staff, including Talisa Rhea, Perry Huang, Emily Blurton, Susan Borhardt, Dr. Adam Pourcho, Dr. Jeff Cary, Tom Spencer,

Abby Gordon, Dana McCracken, Susan Kleiner, and Erica Nash;

Whereas the owners of the Seattle Storm, Lisa Brummel, Dawn Trudeau, and Ginny Glidel, are just 1 of 2 all-female ownership groups in the WNBA;

Whereas the Seattle Storm has exhibited dedication to social impact by strengthening communities through the StormCares partnership with organizations in the greater Puget Sound region; and

Whereas the dedication and hard work of the Seattle Storm have inspired and empowered girls, boys, women, and men of all ages: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) the achievements of the players, coaches, fans, and staff whose dedication has helped the Seattle Storm women’s basketball team win the 2018 Women’s National Basketball Association championship;

(2) the State of Washington and the City of Seattle for their enthusiastic support of women’s professional basketball; and

(3) the continuing progress toward ensuring equity in men’s and women’s professional sports.

SENATE RESOLUTION 678—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2018 AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF FILIPINO AMERICANS AND THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 678

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to the history of the United States by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino American community is the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States, with a population of approximately 4,000,000;

Whereas, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have a longstanding history of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas more than 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas 20,000 Filipino World War II veterans were granted United States citizenship as a result of the Immigration Act of 1990, which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 29, 1990;