

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 521, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 529

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 529, a bill to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes.

S. 600

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 600, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to study regulatory and legislative improvements for the livestock, insect, and agricultural commodities transport industries, and for other purposes.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 604, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain

income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 628, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include biomass heating appliances for tax credits available for energy-efficient building property and energy property.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 9, a joint resolution calling on the United States and Congress to take immediate action to address the challenge of climate change.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 93—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2, 2019, AS “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE DAY”

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. MCSALLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 93

Whereas March 2, 2019, marks the 90th anniversary of President Calvin Coolidge signing an Act of Congress that approved and funded the first Gold Star pilgrimage to enable Gold Star mothers and widows to travel to the gravesites of their loved ones who died during World War I;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 2, 2019, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Day”;

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by the families of veterans and members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Day—

(A) by performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) by celebrating the lives of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 94—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SHOULD PROTECT INDIVIDUALS WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS BY DEFENDING THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (PUBLIC LAW 111-148; 124 STAT. 119) IN TEXAS V. UNITED STATES, NO. 4:18-CV-00167-O (N.D. TEX.), IN WHICH THE PLAINTIFFS SEEK TO INVALIDATE PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. JONES, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 94

Whereas, in 2010, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) (in this preamble referred to as the “ACA”);

Whereas, prior to the enactment of the ACA, individuals with pre-existing medical conditions were routinely denied health insurance coverage, charged exorbitant rates for health insurance coverage, exposed to unreasonable out-of-pocket costs for health care, or subject to lifetime limits on health insurance coverage;

Whereas the ACA instituted comprehensive protections for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, including—

(1) the protection commonly known as “guaranteed issue”, which requires health insurance companies to issue a health plan to any applicant regardless of health status or other factors, under section 2702 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-1);

(2) the protection commonly known as “community rating”, which prohibits health insurance companies from varying premiums within a geographical area based on gender or health status and limits the ability of health insurance companies to vary premiums based on age, under section 2701 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg); and

(3) the prohibition on discrimination based on health status, which prohibits excluding from a health plan benefits for pre-existing medical conditions or establishing eligibility rules based on pre-existing medical conditions, under sections 2704 and 2705(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-3, 300gg-4(a));

Whereas, on June 7, 2018, pursuant to section 530D of title 28, United States Code, then Attorney General Jefferson Sessions, under the direction of the President, notified Congress that the Department of Justice—

(1) would not defend the constitutionality of the requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage under section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by the ACA; and

(2) would argue that certain provisions of the ACA, including the provisions protecting an estimated 133,000,000 individuals in the United States with pre-existing medical conditions, are inseparable from the requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage;

Whereas the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas—

(1) issued an order declaring that—

(A) the requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage is unconstitutional; and

(B) the remaining provisions of the ACA, including protections for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, are inseparable from that requirement; and

(2) invalidated the remaining provisions of the ACA;

Whereas the decision of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas was stayed and is pending appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit;

Whereas the refusal of the Department of Justice to defend the ACA, as even then Attorney General Sessions acknowledged in his notice to Congress, contravened the Executive Branch's "longstanding tradition of defending the constitutionality of duly enacted statutes if reasonable arguments can be made in their defense";

Whereas reasonable arguments can be made in defense of the ACA, as evidenced by an amicus brief filed by legal experts, including experts who supported other legal challenges to the ACA; and

Whereas, by arguing that the guaranteed issue, community rating, and other protections prohibiting discrimination are inseparable from the remaining provisions of the ACA and therefore the remaining provisions of the ACA are invalid, the Department of Justice is risking vital protections for the estimated 133,000,000 individuals in the United States with pre-existing medical conditions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Department of Justice should protect individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, including by reversing its position and defending the critically important provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) in *Texas v. United States*, No. 4:18-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.).

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 95—RECOGNIZING THE 198TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 95

Whereas the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States;

Whereas Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander in Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.";

Whereas the Greek national anthem, the "Hymn to Liberty", includes the words, "most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land";

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia;

Whereas Winston Churchill said that "if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been" and "no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks";

Whereas hundreds of thousands of the people of Greece were killed during World War II;

Whereas Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the Balkan region, having invested billions of dollars in the countries of the region and having contributed more than \$750,000,000 in development aid for the region;

Whereas the Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas Secretary of State Michael Pompeo hosted Acting Greek Foreign Minister George Katrougalos in a United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue on December 13, 2018, that underscored Greece's importance to the United States as a pillar of stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important NATO ally;

Whereas the eastern Mediterranean trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus is increasingly important to United States interests, and each country's strong relationship with the United States, as well as the prospect of an Eastern Mediterranean pipeline enabling safe transmission of gas to Western Europe, is critical to security and energy stability;

Whereas the United States was the honored country at Greece's premier Thessaloniki International Fair on September 8-16, 2018;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympic Games of more than 14,000 athletes and more than 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, a feat the Government and people of Greece handled efficiently, securely, and with hospitality;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim countries and Israel;

Whereas Greece remains an integral part of the European Union;

Whereas the Government of Greece has taken important steps in recent years to further cross-cultural understanding, rapprochement, and cooperation in various fields with Turkey, and has also improved its relations with other countries in the region, including Israel, thus enhancing the stability of the wider region;

Whereas the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the people of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2019, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 198 years ago.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of William Ro Evanina, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, dated March 5, 2019.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. FISCHER. Mr. President, I have 10 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 Senate, 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 Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the electricity sector in changing climate."