

Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 135, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINES:

S. 1070. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to fund demonstration projects to improve recruitment and retention of child welfare workers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, investing in the development of a robust, well-trained, and stable child welfare workforce is central to improving outcomes for children and families across the United States. The existence of such a workforce is essential to a child welfare agency's ability to carry out the responsibilities with which they have been entrusted. Child welfare work has been shown to be physically and emotionally challenging, as demonstrated by recent studies into the impact of secondary traumatic stress (STS) on child welfare professionals. The multitude of challenges inherent in child welfare work, combined with relatively low compensation and work benefits, make these careers difficult to sustain, resulting in high rates of turnover.

Studies conducted over the last 15 years estimate the national rate of turnover of child welfare workers to be 20–40 percent annually. In 2017, Virginia reported a turnover rate of 30%, while Washington State reported a turnover rate of 20% and Georgia reported a turnover rate of 32%. These high rates of turnover detract from the quality of services delivered to children and families and result in an estimated cost of \$54,000 per worker leaving an agency.

Greater action is needed to ensure that individuals pursuing child welfare careers receive appropriate training and support to improve the sustainability of their important, yet demanding work. Higher rates of retention for child welfare workers translates to

greater stability for families and improved services for vulnerable youth. Existing research provides a number of evidenced-based and promising practices for improving recruitment and retention in the child welfare workforce.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today the Child Welfare Workforce Support Act. This bill directs the Secretary to conduct a five-year demonstration program for child welfare service providers to implement targeted interventions to recruit, select, and retain child welfare workers. This demonstration program will focus on building an evidence base of best practices for reducing barriers to the recruitment, development, and retention of individuals providing direct services to children and families. Funds will also be used to provide ongoing professional development to assist child welfare workers in meeting the diverse needs of families with infants and children with the goal of improving both the quality of services provided and the sustainability of such careers. Investing resources in determining what practices have the greatest impact on the successful recruitment and retention of child welfare workers will assist in developing an evidence-base for future federal investment in this space.

I hope that as the Senate begins to discuss reauthorizing the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act that we consider the Child Welfare Workforce Support Act and recognize the important role that child welfare workers make to improve outcomes for vulnerable infants and children.

By Mr. KAINES (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1073. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to ensure protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth and their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, according to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) youth are at an increased risk for experiencing maltreatment compared to non-LGB youth. A 2011 meta-analysis of 37 school-based studies found that LGB adolescents were 3.8 times more likely to experience childhood sexual abuse and 1.2 times more likely to experience physical abuse by a parent or guardian when compared to their heterosexual peers. Additional studies have demonstrated that gender nonconformity during childhood may increase the risk for child maltreatment. Unfortunately, there is not enough research and data available to identify the risk of child maltreatment for individuals who identify as transgender.

These risks for maltreatment often times result in LGBTQ youth entering the child welfare system. Studies have found that, "LGBT young people are overrepresented in child welfare systems, despite the fact that they are

likely to be underreported because they risk harassment and abuse if their LGBT identity is disclosed." This overrepresentation of LGBTQ youth in the foster care system raises concerns about issues in the child abuse and prevention space. Additional research is needed to understand the risk of maltreatment among LGBTQ youth, particularly those identifying as transgender. These studies will yield invaluable information to be used in developing targeted prevention strategies to reduce the rates of adverse childhood experiences of LGBTQ individuals.

This is why I am pleased to introduce the Protecting LGBTQ Youth Act, which calls for HHS and other federal agencies to carry out an interdisciplinary research program to protect LGBTQ youth from child abuse and neglect and improve the well-being of victims of child abuse or neglect. This legislation also expands current practices around demographic information collection and reporting on incidences and prevalence of child maltreatment to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, the bill opens existing grant funding opportunities to invest in the training of personnel in best practices to meet the unique needs of LGBTQ youth and calls for the inclusion of individuals experienced in working with LGBTQ youth and families in state task forces. Improving data collection and disaggregation will provide greater insight into the circumstances LGBTQ youth face in the home that, when left unaddressed, lead to entry into the child welfare system. This improved data-driven understanding can then be used to develop appropriate and effective primary prevention practices to decrease the risks faced by LGBTQ youth.

I hope that as the Senate begins to discuss the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act we consider the Protecting LGBTQ Youth Act to better inform our collective understanding of the risks faced by LGBTQ youth and the best ways to address them.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 148—SUPPORTING EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA TO PURSUE PEACE AND REGIONAL STABILITY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 148

Whereas, in 2016, the Government of Colombia concluded a historic peace accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), aimed at addressing the root causes of the half-a-century conflict, including stark economic inequalities, the rural-urban divide, and the historical exclusion of Afro-Colombians, indigenous people, women,

and poor farmers, and is currently working to implement these accords;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and Colombia have forged a resolute bond through a shared commitment to support peace, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and security throughout the hemisphere and the world, which has been bolstered by the support of hundreds of thousands of Colombian-Americans and their contributions to American life;

Whereas, in 2000, the Government of Colombia achieved an impressive national consensus to build state capacity, and the United States committed to combat organized crime, drugs, and violence through its foreign assistance package in support of Plan Colombia;

Whereas Plan Colombia and its successor, Peace Colombia, have received steadfast commitments from the administrations of Presidents William Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump, and continuously has been strengthened by broad bipartisan support in the United States Congress;

Whereas, while the Government of Colombia contributed more than 95 percent of funds over the life of Plan Colombia, the political leadership, technical advice, military assistance, and intelligence-sharing role of the United States, along with the \$11,000,000,000 appropriated by the United States Congress through Plan Colombia and Peace Colombia to combat the illicit narcotics trade and transnational organized crime, advance democratic governance, promote economic growth, and defend human rights, played a key role in transforming a nation on the brink to an increasingly peaceful and prosperous democracy, while also safeguarding vital United States interests;

Whereas the Government of Colombia, throughout the administrations of Presidents Andres Pastrana, Alvaro Uribe, Juan Manuel Santos, and Ivan Duque, has made investments and shown remarkable courageous leadership, often at great cost and sacrifice, to consolidate domestic security, socioeconomic development, and the rule of law that far exceed those contributions made by the United States in Colombia;

Whereas, over the past 20 years, levels of crime and violence have subsided sharply in Colombia, with annual per capita homicide rates declining from 62 per 100,000 people in 1999 to a record low of 23 per 100,000 people in 2017;

Whereas the alignment of improved security and sound economic policies has translated into steady growth in Colombia's Gross Domestic Product, which increased from \$86,000,000,000 in 1999 to more than \$309,000,000,000 in 2017, and led to greater Foreign Direct Investment, which grew from \$1,500,000,000 in 1999 to one of the highest in Latin America at an estimated \$14,000,000,000 in 2017;

Whereas the United States and Colombia enjoy a robust economic relationship with United States goods and services trade with Colombia totaling an estimated \$36,100,000,000 in 2016, supporting over 100,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the Government of Colombia has made impressive strides in reducing poverty during the last 15 years, with the poverty rate decreasing from 64 percent in 1999 to 27 percent in 2017, according to the World Bank;

Whereas, since 1999, the Government of Colombia has expanded the presence of the state across all 32 territorial departments, has contributed to the professionalism of the Colombian judiciary, and has improved the capacity of the Colombian Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Police;

Whereas Colombia is one of the United States' most consistent and strategic part-

ners through its support of United States diplomatic objectives at the United Nations and critical efforts made in the fight against transnational organized crime and increased security and rule of law overseas, including in Central America's Northern Triangle, Afghanistan, and several countries in Africa;

Whereas Colombia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NATO in 2017 and is the first NATO partner nation in Latin America;

Whereas these gains are challenged by an escalating crisis in Venezuela, which has seen an influx of more than 1,200,000 Venezuelans into Colombia and the need for continued financial support to implement the peace accord over the next 8 years;

Whereas the internal armed conflict has victimized all Colombians, including women, children, and Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples, and has led to the repeated targeting of leading representatives of civil society, including trade unionists, journalists, human rights defenders, and other community activists who remain at grave risk from guerrilla groups, paramilitary successor organizations, organized criminal groups, and corrupt local officials;

Whereas efforts to achieve lasting peace in Colombia must address the hardships faced by victims of the armed conflict, as exemplified by the Government of Colombia's Law on Victims and Restitution of Land of 2011;

Whereas the prospects for national reconciliation and sustainable peace in Colombia rely on the effective delivery of justice for victims of the conflict and the ability to hold accountable and appropriately punish perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; and

Whereas the work of Special Jurisdiction for Peace—the transitional justice mechanism created with the purpose of ensuring accountability in the context of Colombia's internal armed conflict—is fundamental to the implementation of the accords and the consolidation of peace in the country: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the unwavering support of the Government and people of the United States for the people of Colombia in their pursuit of peace and stabilization of territories previously in conflict so they can achieve their aspiration to live in a country free of violence and organized crime;

(2) lauds efforts to bring an end to Colombia's enduring internal armed conflict;

(3) commends the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in overseeing the implementation of the 2016 peace accord and the disarmament and reintegration of combatants;

(4) maintains its commitment to the more than 7,000,000 victims of Colombia's armed conflict and urges the government and FARC to hold accountable perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and ensure that they are appropriately punished;

(5) encourages the Government of Colombia to protect vulnerable populations who remain at risk in that country, including defenders of human rights, those facing threats due to crop substitution from the illicit crop market, and Afro-descendant and indigenous communities;

(6) encourages the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive strategy to assist the Government of Colombia in managing the effects of the Venezuela crisis without endangering or detracting from the successful implementation and sustainability of the peace accord and stabilization of territories previously in conflict in Colombia, and to further strengthen the close bilateral partner-

ship shared by the Governments of the United States and Colombia;

(7) reaffirms its commitment to continued partnership between the Governments of the United States and Colombia on issues of mutual interest, including security, counter-narcotics cooperation, combating transnational organized crime, ensuring justice for those who have caused indelible harm to our populations, reintegration of FARC members, economic growth and investment with a focus on disadvantaged communities, and educational and cultural exchanges that strengthen diplomatic relations;

(8) supports the Special Jurisdiction for Peace as an important transitional justice mechanism and encourages the continuation of its work as an important institution in charge of guaranteeing truth, justice, and victim's reparations in the aftermath of the country's internal armed conflict; and

(9) commits to furthering the bilateral relationship between the United States and Colombia by working with leaders in the public and private sectors, as well as civil society from both countries, to ensure that the United States-Colombia relationship remains at the forefront of United States foreign policy.

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**SENATE RESOLUTION 149—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 8 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2019, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK”**

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

**S. RES. 149**

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this preamble as “NASSP”), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 8 through April 12, 2019, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decisionmaking to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as to supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every