

rule and did not issue a stay, so thousands of currently covered individuals are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage. Passing this bill will ensure that they do not.

Small businesses ought to have the opportunity to band together and leverage their combined strength so they can negotiate and provide their employees with comprehensive and affordable health insurance coverage. That coverage should be subject to the same consumer protection requirements that apply to large employers offering similar coverage. Small businesses and their employees are the bedrock of our country's economy, and proper health insurance coverage is a key element of family well-being and peace of mind. This bill will strengthen those foundations so we can continue to prosper as a country.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 159—DESIGNATING APRIL 24, 2019, AS “MENINGITIS B AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 159

Whereas it is the custom of the Senate to increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas meningococcal disease, more commonly referred to as “bacterial meningitis”, is any infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*;

Whereas meningococcal disease is uncommon, and the flu-like symptoms of the disease make diagnosis difficult;

Whereas meningococcal disease can cause serious illnesses, such as—

(1) an infection of the lining of the brain and spinal column known as “meningitis”; and

(2) blood infections known as “sepsis”;

Whereas the disease strikes quickly and may lead to severe or permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, and limb amputation, and may even lead to death within 24 to 48 hours;

Whereas, although 1 in 10 people are carriers of *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria with no signs or symptoms of disease, *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria may sometimes cause illnesses;

Whereas there are different strains of meningococcal disease, including strains caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroups A, C, W, Y, and B;

Whereas vaccines exist to help provide protection against all strains of meningococcal disease caused by the serogroups common in the United States;

Whereas meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria through respiratory and throat secretions during close or lengthy contact, including contact such as—

(1) sharing beverages or eating utensils;

(2) kissing; and

(3) spending time in close contact with someone who is sick or who carries the bacteria;

Whereas community settings in which large groups of people gather, such as college

campuses, may increase the risk of transmission of meningococcal disease;

Whereas, because of the way meningococcal disease is spread through close personal contact, the social behavior of young adults ages 16 to 23 increases the risk of those adults contracting the disease;

Whereas students in dormitory settings and at crowded events are particularly vulnerable to meningococcal disease;

Whereas college students ages 18 to 24 were found to be 3.5 times more likely to contract meningitis B, the strain of meningococcal disease caused by serogroup B, compared to their peers not in school;

Whereas the single best way to help prevent all common strains of meningococcal disease is to be vaccinated with—

(1) a MenACWY vaccine to protect against the strains of meningococcal disease caused by serogroups A, C, W, and Y; and

(2) a separate MenB vaccine to protect against the strain of meningococcal disease caused by serogroup B;

Whereas the incidence of meningococcal disease in the United States has steadily declined from 1.20 cases per 100,000 individuals in 1995 to a historic low of 0.11 cases per 100,000 individuals in 2017;

Whereas, although vaccines for serogroups A, C, W, and Y have been available for many years, a vaccine for serogroup B was not available until 2014;

Whereas, despite the existence of a vaccine for serogroup B since 2014, meningitis B has been responsible for all United States college campus outbreaks since 2011, with some cases resulting in death;

Whereas, because the strain of meningococcal disease caused by serogroup B requires a new, separate vaccination, students heading to college may mistakenly think that, if they received the MenACWY vaccine, they are protected against all strains of the disease, and may not realize that they are not protected against the strain caused by serogroup B;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B accounts for approximately half of all cases of meningococcal disease among individuals ages 15 to 22 in the United States;

Whereas vaccination for serogroups A, C, W, and Y is routinely recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young adults ages 16 to 23 against the strain of meningococcal disease caused by serogroup B should be made at the individual level with health care providers;

Whereas a recent study found that many doctors are not talking to patients about the MenB vaccine, including 49 percent of pediatricians and 69 percent of family physicians who do not regularly discuss the MenB vaccine during routine visits with individuals ages 16 to 18;

Whereas meningitis vaccines are covered by public and private health insurance plans, and individuals should be encouraged to contact health insurance plans to determine coverage of MenACWY and MenB vaccines;

Whereas the Federal Vaccines for Children program covers both MenACWY and MenB vaccines for—

(1) children and adults who have no health insurance or whose health insurance does not cover those vaccines; and

(2) children less than 19 years of age who are American Indian, Alaska Native, or eligible for Medicaid or other State health plan coverage;

Whereas, in 2012, before meningitis B vaccines were available in the United States,

Kimberly Coffey, a 17-year-old high school senior on Long Island, New York, died from meningitis B;

Whereas Patti Wukovits, R.N., the mother of Kimberly Coffey, created the Kimberly Coffey Foundation, a vital organization with the mission of—

(1) providing education to the public and health care professionals about meningococcal disease; and

(2) advocating for two types of vaccination for meningococcal disease;

Whereas the goal of the Kimberly Coffey Foundation is to ensure that no other family will endure the loss of a child or have a loved one experience the devastating effects of meningococcal disease;

Whereas June 15, 2019, marks the seventh anniversary of the death of Kimberly Coffey;

Whereas 19-year-old Emily Nicole Stillman, while a sophomore at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, tragically contracted bacterial meningitis before meningitis B vaccines were available in the United States;

Whereas, on February 2, 2013, after just 36 hours in the hospital, Emily Nicole Stillman passed away;

Whereas, in 2014, Alicia Stillman, the mother of Emily Nicole Stillman, created the Emily Stillman Foundation—

(1) to preserve the memory of Emily Nicole Stillman;

(2) to advocate for organ and tissue donation; and

(3) to advocate for the increased availability of vaccines for all vaccine-preventable diseases, including the increased availability of meningitis vaccines for children;

Whereas February 2019 marked the sixth anniversary of the death of Emily Stillman;

Whereas the Meningitis B Action Project, a joint initiative of the Kimberly Coffey Foundation and the Emily Stillman Foundation, is committed to raising awareness about meningococcal disease throughout the United States;

Whereas students, parents, educators, and health care providers should learn about all strains of meningococcal disease and how to protect against all strains of the disease; and

Whereas April 24, 2019, should be designated as “Meningitis B Awareness Day” to coincide with the observance of World Meningitis Day; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 24, 2019, as “Meningitis B Awareness Day”; and

(2) encourages—

(A) all individuals to contact health insurance plans to determine coverage of MenACWY and MenB vaccines; and

(B) students, parents, educators, and health care providers to learn about all strains of meningococcal disease and how to protect against all strains of the disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 160—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEFENSE LABORATORIES TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL DOMINANCE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 25, 2019, AS “DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LABORATORY DAY 2019”

Mr. JONES (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 160

Whereas the national network of laboratories, research and development centers, and engineering centers that are owned and funded by the Department of Defense (referred to in this preamble as the “defense laboratories”) should be commended as reservoirs of technical talent available to support—

- (1) immediate, tactical military innovation; and
- (2) foundational research, science, and engineering to address long-term challenges;

Whereas the national security innovation emanating from the defense laboratories will be predicated on—

- (1) a sufficient pipeline of trained and experienced scientists and engineers eligible for a security clearance; and

(2) the facilities, infrastructure, instrumentation, and support capabilities needed—

- (A) to attract and retain those scientists and engineers; and

(B) to bolster the activities of those scientists and engineers to meet the technology problems of the Department of Defense;

Whereas research and development supported by the Department of Defense has—

- (1) led to new products and processes for state-of-the-art Armed Forces weapons and technology; and

(2) technically informed new approaches and concepts of operation that will be needed to keep the Armed Forces ahead of future adversaries of the United States;

Whereas defense laboratories—

- (1) are critical elements of the innovation ecosystem; and

(2) compose indispensable elements in the technology transfer community when leveraged with partners in—

- (A) State and local governments;
- (B) regional organizations;
- (C) academia; and
- (D) nonprofit research institutions;

Whereas defense laboratories have earned prestigious national and international awards for research and technology transfer efforts, providing a foundation of technological leadership for—

- (1) the Armed Forces; and
- (2) the United States;

Whereas the innovations that are produced at defense laboratories fuel economic growth by creating new industries, companies, and jobs; and

Whereas April 25, 2019, is an appropriate day to designate as “Department of Defense Laboratory Day 2019”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) supports the designation of April 25, 2019, as “Department of Defense Laboratory Day 2019” in celebration of all of the work and accomplishments of the national network of laboratories, research and development centers, and engineering centers that are owned and funded by the Department of Defense (referred to in this resolution as the “defense laboratories”);

(2) recognizes that a key to maintaining the innovation and competitiveness of the United States in a global economy is to continue to support federally sponsored research and development;

(3) acknowledges that the knowledge base, technologies, and techniques generated in the national network of defense laboratories serve as a foundation for additional efforts relating to the Armed Forces in the defense industrial base;

(4) commits to find ways to increase investment in the national network of defense laboratories in order to increase support of—

- (A) federally sponsored research and development;

(B) critical scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this resolution as “STEM”) personnel;

- (C) STEM development activities; and
- (D) necessary supporting infrastructure and facilities;

(5) encourages defense laboratories, Federal agencies, and Congress to hold an outreach event on April 25, 2019, “Department of Defense Laboratory Day 2019”, to make the public more aware of the important contributions that defense laboratories make to national defense and economic prosperity; and

- (6) recognizes the outstanding dedication, qualifications, service, and accomplishments of the scientists, engineers, technicians, and support staff of the defense laboratories.

SENATE RESOLUTION 161—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD MALARIA DAY

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

S. RES. 161

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day;

Whereas malaria is a leading cause of death and disease in many developing countries, despite being preventable and treatable;

Whereas fighting malaria is in the national interest of the United States because—

- (1) reducing the risk of malaria protects members of the Armed Forces and other people of the United States serving overseas in malaria-endemic regions; and

(2) reducing malaria deaths helps to lower risks of instability in less developed countries;

Whereas United States support for efforts to fight malaria—

- (1) is in the diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian interests of the United States;

(2) generates goodwill toward the United States; and

(3) highlights the values of the people of the United States through the work of governmental, nongovernmental, and faith-based organizations of the United States;

Whereas, in 2017, 87 countries and areas had ongoing malaria transmissions;

Whereas nearly 1/2 of the population of the world is at risk for malaria, with the World Health Organization African region carrying a disproportionately high burden, with 92 percent of malaria cases and 93 percent of malaria deaths in the world;

Whereas young children and pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to, and disproportionately affected by, malaria;

Whereas children under the age of 5 account for an estimated 61 percent of malaria deaths each year;

Whereas the World Malaria Report 2018 published by the World Health Organization states that, in 2017, approximately 435,000 people died from malaria, which is a decrease of approximately 50 percent, as compared to 2000;

Whereas the United States Government has played a leading role in the recent progress made toward reducing the global burden of malaria, particularly through the President’s Malaria Initiative and the contribution of the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and

Whereas the United States Government is pursuing a comprehensive approach to end malaria deaths through the President’s Malaria Initiative, which is led by the United States Agency for International Development and implemented with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, the Department of State, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and private sector entities; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) supports the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day;

(2) recognizes the importance of reducing malaria prevalence and deaths to improve overall child and maternal health, especially in sub-Saharan Africa;

(3) commends the recent progress made toward reducing global malaria morbidity, mortality, and prevalence, particularly through the efforts of the President’s Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(4) welcomes ongoing public-private partnerships to research and develop more effective and affordable tools for malaria surveillance, diagnostics, treatment, and prevention;

(5) recognizes the goals, priorities, and authorities to combat malaria set forth in the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-25; 117 Stat. 711) and the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293; 122 Stat. 2918);

(6) supports continued leadership by the United States in bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to combat malaria and to work with endemic countries in developing and effectively executing their own national responses to malaria; and

(7) encourages other members of the international community to sustain and increase their support for, and financial contributions to, efforts to combat malaria worldwide.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, today I wish to offer a resolution recognizing the critical contributions the laboratories of the Department of Defense make to the national security of this country. The 63 Laboratories, Warfare Centers, and Engineering Centers of the Department of Defense spread across 22 states and the District of Columbia are important components of the U.S. warfighting establishment and are instrumental in maintaining the technological edge of our military forces. My resolution would highlight the contributions of these laboratories by designating April 25, 2019, as “Department of Defense Laboratory Day 2019” in order to celebrate the work and accomplishments of the men and women in those defense labs. Many of the technological advantages upon which our military rests are rooted in the diligent, dedicated work and innovative mindset of the scientists and engineers in our defense labs. Their work drives not only the near-term, tactical innovations needed to support our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines in the wars of the past century, but they are critical foundations of research that will fuel the processes and technologies needed for the next century and beyond. In addition to the cutting-edge research and development of new technologies, our defense laboratories are a resource to the national economy and innovation ecosystem of the nation—providing the people, facilities, experience, operational problems, and capabilities for technology transfer that support the warfighter, industry,