

States Code, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to give preferential consideration to individuals who have successfully completed air traffic controller training and veterans when hiring air traffic control specialists.

S. 1170

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1170, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish additional criteria for determining when employers may join together in a group or association of employers that will be treated as an employer under section 3(5) of such Act for purposes of sponsoring a group health plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1195

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1195, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumption relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1200, a bill to create protections for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 120, *supra*.

S. RES. 144

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 144, a resolution designating May 5, 2019, as the "National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1303. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to address the protective custody of alien children ac-

companied by parents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, during the last break in our schedule here in Congress in Washington, I spent 2 weeks traveling across my State—as all of us, no doubt, did—and listening and talking to my constituents about what is on their minds, what they think we ought to be doing, and what our priorities should be.

In one city, I spoke with students and teachers about the need to improve college and career readiness for historically underrepresented populations and how a piece of legislation that we have introduced with colleagues called the GEAR UP for Success Act would better serve those students.

It was a little bit of a revelation for me, having come from a family where my parents expected me to go to college, and they themselves went to college, that if other children are growing up and don't have that experience—many times, their parents are not prepared to help counsel them on which courses they ought to begin to take as early as seventh grade in order to be prepared with the prerequisites to advance up the educational ladder and be ready for college, to get into the college of their choice. So that was an important piece of legislation. Certainly, working together with colleagues here, I hope we can reauthorize and fund those grants so that more of our young people can get the advantage that comes from that sort of counseling and tutoring and help.

I also spent a little time at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX, to talk about military readiness and the importance of the new strategic bomber—the B-21—mission that is coming to Texas and to the U.S. Air Force.

I also had a chance to talk to some of my educators and other advocates about the Jenna Quinn Law, which is designed to help give caregivers and teachers training so that they can actually recognize and report signs of child sexual abuse in the children for whom they are responsible.

It has been interesting to me because it actually follows on legislation that passed and has been successful in Texas to train teachers and caregivers on the signs of child sexual abuse so that they can help get those children the help they need, sometimes by asking questions they would never ask if they had not been trained to recognize those signs.

Jenna Quinn herself was an example—this bill is named for her—of somebody who was asked by her sister: Jenna, has somebody hurt you? And that opened up the story and, fortunately, a prosecution and began the path to healing from that trauma.

It is great to be able to talk about a number of topics as we all return home, and you can imagine, coming from Texas, with 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, one of the things we talked about is the humanitarian crisis along the southwestern border.

Border Patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley Sector encountered several large groups of people trying to enter the United States last week. This is just in 1 week. On Thursday, agents near La Joya responded to a report of a large group of migrants and found more than 220 people in that one group, mostly families and unaccompanied children from Central America. The very next day, they came across two additional large groups, one with 145 people and another with nearly 300. On Sunday, they apprehended a group of 170. That brings the total to more than 800 people from just 4 groups in 1 week.

These numbers represent a surge in the volume of people we see coming across the border historically. In fact, now almost all of them come from someplace other than Mexico. There is actually no new net migration from Mexico. But we see people being recruited and paying for the services of human smugglers to come from Central America and actually many other countries around the world where people realize that if they can get access to Central America and they can pay the fees to the human smugglers, they can make their way into the United States.

That is why even President Obama said in 2014 that this is a humanitarian and security crisis. In fact, the statement that President Obama made in June of 2014 when he said that came on the heels of 2 months of record-high apprehensions of unaccompanied children. Between May and June of 2014, more than 135,000 people were apprehended at the southern border. Those numbers were absolutely mind-boggling to us at the time, but those figures pale in comparison to the level of apprehensions we are seeing today.

In February and March of this year—again, a 2-month period—more than 180,000 people were apprehended at the southwestern border. So in 2014 when President Obama called it a humanitarian and security crisis, it was 135,000. Today, in February and March, it was 180,000. That is more than a 33-percent increase from the humanitarian crisis President Obama referred to in 2014. So if it was a crisis then, it has now turned into a full system failure, and all lights are blinking red.

Detention centers are at over capacity. The already understaffed Border Patrol is struggling to meet their needs. Officers and agents are pulling double duty, as law enforcement officials have become caregivers for children. Customs agents are being pulled off their duty to process migrants. NGOs—the nongovernmental organizations—and community organizations that usually help the migrants process the system are unable to keep pace. Cities and counties across the border are bearing the brunt of this massive wave of humanity.

But if you think the situation is bad now, and it is, it will only continue to get worse because we typically see higher apprehension rates in April and May than we do in February and

March. These rapidly depleting resources are being overwhelmed, as I said, and cannot keep pace.

We need to address the root of the problem, and we need to do it soon. Only Congress can pass the legislation that is needed in order to come to grips with this crisis. It is time for us to pass legislation that will provide our front-line officers and agents with the resources they need in terms of staffing, authorities, and infrastructure.

It is also important for us to plug some of the holes that are being exploited by the human smugglers and others that allow them to successfully place migrants into the United States 97 percent of the time as long as they are an unaccompanied minor or come with a family.

Fortunately, I found a partner and ally from the House body who happens to be a Democrat by the name of HENRY CUELLAR, who is willing to work with me on this issue. He has been my ally on a number of efforts to bring commonsense reform, when it comes to border security or trade, to Texas. We don't always agree, but we can agree on a number of things, and those are the things on which we like to work together.

Earlier today, HENRY CUELLAR and I introduced the HUMANE Act, which will make important and long-overdue reforms to our immigration system, and it includes commonsense provisions that Republicans and Democrats can and should agree on.

First, it closes a major loophole that is often exploited by the human smugglers when they bring families into the United States across the border illegally. This is called generically the Flores Settlement Agreement. That name comes from a 1997 agreement that determined that the Department of Homeland Security can only detain unaccompanied children for 20 days before releasing them to the Department of Health and Human Services.

While this was unquestionably well-intentioned at the beginning, it has morphed into a much bigger problem because in 2016, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals expanded the Flores holding, effectively applying the settlement not just to unaccompanied children but also to families and turning it into a pull factor for illegal immigrants hoping to game the system.

I am grateful for the support of my friend and ally Congressman CUELLAR because we recognize that rather than single adults arriving at the border alone, many people are now bringing children with them so they can pose as a family. They realize they can bring a child—anybody's child—and pose as a family unit so they can be released after 20 days. Children are literally being kidnapped to serve as a free ticket into the United States. Sadly, many are abused along the way, and many arrive at our border in very ill health. We simply cannot stand by and do nothing and let this continue to occur.

I know today I read in one of our newspapers that the San Antonio

Chamber of Commerce said that because Customs agents are being redeployed to deal with children and families, handing out juice boxes and diapers, that there has been a huge slowdown in cross-border commerce and trade. Because of the unique nature of the supply chains that apply to manufacturing both in Mexico and the United States, they estimate that as much as \$800 million a day is being lost because now our infrastructure and our staffing at our borders are being overwhelmed.

So the HUMANE Act would clarify that the Flores Settlement Agreement only applies to unaccompanied children and not to families, and it would provide greater time for processing and immigration proceedings to take place before the families are released from custody.

Secondly, this legislation would require that all unaccompanied children are processed the same, regardless of the country of their origin, because under current law, children from Mexico and Canada can be promptly returned home if they don't have a legitimate claim, but processes for other countries move much more slowly, if at all. Put simply, we should make every effort to safely return these children to their home countries as quickly as possible if they don't qualify for an immigration benefit, just as we do now for those from Mexico and Canada.

It would also require all children to undergo biometric and DNA screening to establish family relationships and ensure that they are, in fact, traveling with relatives rather than human smugglers.

To better protect children who are released to Health and Human Services, this bill would place prohibitions on certain individuals who could be serving as guardians. For example, no child should be released to the custody of a sex offender or a human trafficker.

Third, the HUMANE Act would enable family units to stay together—something, I would think, that all of us should agree on—and streamline the process for those in custody.

Consistent with the recommendations from the bipartisan DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council, the bill would require DHS to establish at least four regional processing centers along the southern border to house and process families. This would literally serve as a one-stop shop, with DHS personnel from Customs and Border Protection, ICE, USCIS, and FEMA assisting migrants and working to process their claims.

Under this legislation, asylum officers and immigration judges would be forward-deployed to adjudicate claims and expedite the entire process, which we hope would begin to ease the burden on our current debilitating immigration court backlog.

In addition to those changes, the legislation also includes provisions to make commonsense improvements, like additional Customs and Border Pa-

trol personnel, and training for our CBP and ICE employees who work with children.

While we know this will not fix all of the problems that exist in our immigration system, we believe it is an important start to change the calculation when it comes to people who say: I know I don't qualify for asylum, but I am going to try anyway, and I am going to pay a human smuggler \$5,000, \$6,000, \$7,000, or \$8,000 to try to get me from my home in Central America into the United States because right now, 97 percent of the time, it works.

This is also a huge bonanza to these cartels that are commodity agnostic. They trade in drugs. They traffic children, women, and, yes, they move migrants across the border for money. This will put a big dent in their profits, as we should want to do.

It will also send a message to those who do not have valid claims: Don't even try.

So it will have a deterrent value, which I think will begin to help us control the huge surge of humanity coming across now, which were, as I said, 76,000 in February and 103,000 in March. We are going to see those numbers continue to go up and up and up, further overwhelming our capacity to deal with this humanitarian crisis unless we do something, like this legislation that Congressman CUELLAR and I have introduced.

I am grateful for the support and cooperation of my friend and colleague from the House. I am sure there are people in his party who will say he has done too much, just as there are people in my party who will say we haven't done enough. But around here, you have to start somewhere, and where you start is where you can find common cause and agreement and begin to build consensus to solve problems.

Hopefully, if we are successful in passing this legislation, this will not only address this humanitarian crisis, but it will maybe establish a downpayment of goodwill and demonstrate our ability to solve some of our other problems here in the Congress, particularly those that relate to our broken immigration system.

I hope we will soon have the opportunity to consider this text in the Judiciary Committee—I talked to Chairman GRAHAM, who seemed willing to do that—and bring more members into the debate so we can provide relief for those struggling to manage the crisis.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1315. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to establish, or expand upon, master's degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1315

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

# SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act”.

## SEC. 2. ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT.

### (a) GRANTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award grants to eligible institutions to enable the eligible institutions—

(A) to establish a master’s degree program in orthotics and prosthetics; or

(B) to expand upon an existing master’s degree program in orthotics and prosthetics, including by admitting more students, further training faculty, expanding facilities, or increasing cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of grants under this section to eligible institutions that have entered into a partnership with a medical center or clinic administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs or a facility administered by the Department of Defense, including by providing clinical rotations at such medical center, clinic, or facility.

(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Grants awarded under this section shall be in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 and not more than \$1,500,000.

### (b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for grants under this section.

(2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that seeks the award of a grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) demonstration of a willingness and ability to participate in a partnership described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) a commitment, and demonstration of an ability, to maintain an accredited orthotics and prosthetics education program after the end of the grant period.

### (c) GRANT USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall use grant amounts to carry out any of the following:

(A) Building new or expanding existing orthotics and prosthetics master’s degree programs.

(B) Training doctoral candidates in fields related to orthotics and prosthetics to prepare them to instruct in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(C) Training faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education or related fields for the purpose of instruction in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(D) Salary supplementation for faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education.

(E) Financial aid that allows eligible institutions to admit additional students to study orthotics and prosthetics.

(F) Funding faculty research projects or faculty time to undertake research in the areas of orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of furthering their teaching abilities.

(G) Renovation of buildings or minor construction to house orthotics and prosthetics education programs.

(H) Purchasing equipment for orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) LIMITATION ON CONSTRUCTION.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use not more than 50 percent of the grant amount to carry out paragraph (1)(G).

(3) ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section shall give preference in admission to the orthotics and prosthetics master’s degree programs to veterans, to the extent practicable.

(4) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution awarded a grant under this section may use the grant amount for a period of three years after the award of the grant.

### (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible institution” means an educational institution that offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that—

(A) is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs; or

(B) demonstrates an ability to meet the accreditation requirements for orthotic and prosthetic education from the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs if the institution receives a grant under this section.

(2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

### (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$15,000,000 to carry out this section. The amount so authorized to be appropriated shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2022.

(2) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS TO BE RETURNED TO THE TREASURY.—Any amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1) that are not obligated by the Secretary as of September 30, 2022, shall be returned to the Treasury of the United States.

## SEC. 3. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC EDUCATION.

### (a) GRANT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award a grant to an eligible institution to enable the eligible institution—

(A) to establish the Center of Excellence in Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (in this section referred to as the “Center”); and

(B) to enable the eligible institution to improve orthotic and prosthetic outcomes for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and civilians by conducting evidence-based research on—

(i) the knowledge, skills, and training most needed by clinical professionals in the field of orthotics and prosthetics; and

(ii) how to most effectively prepare clinical professionals to provide effective, high-quality orthotic and prosthetic care.

(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of a grant under this section to an eligible institution that has in force, or demonstrates the willingness and ability to enter into, a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, or other appropriate Federal agency, or a cooperative agreement with an appropriate private sector entity, which memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement provides for either, or both, of the following:

(A) The provision of resources, whether in cash or in-kind, to the Center.

(B) Assistance to the Center in conducting research and disseminating the results of such research.

(3) GRANT AMOUNT.—The grant awarded under this section shall be in the amount of \$5,000,000.

### (b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from eligible institutions for the grant under this section.

(2) PROPOSALS.—An eligible institution that seeks the award of the grant under this section shall submit an application therefor to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require.

### (c) GRANT USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section shall use the grant amount as follows:

(A) To develop an agenda for orthotics and prosthetics education research.

(B) To fund research in the area of orthotics and prosthetics education.

(C) To publish or otherwise disseminate research findings relating to orthotics and prosthetics education.

(2) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—The eligible institution awarded the grant under this section may use the grant amount for a period of five years after the award of the grant.

### (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “eligible institution” means an educational institution that—

(A) has a robust research program;

(B) offers an orthotics and prosthetics education program that is accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education in cooperation with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs;

(C) is well recognized in the field of orthotics and prosthetics education; and

(D) has an established association with—

(i) a medical center or clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(ii) a local rehabilitation hospital.

(2) The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$5,000,000 to carry out this section.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1316. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to award grants to fund research on orthotics and prosthetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1316

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

# SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Wounded Warrior Research Enhancement Act”.

## SEC. 2. ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the grants described in this section is to advance orthotic and prosthetic clinical care for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians who have undergone amputation, traumatic brain injury, and other serious

physical injury as a result of combat or military experience.

(b) **GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PATIENT OUTCOMES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The actions that can be taken to prevent amputation of limbs.

(2) The point in the course of patient treatment during which orthotic and prosthetic intervention is most effective.

(3) The orthotic interventions that are most effective in treating the physical effects of traumatic brain injury.

(4) The patients that benefit most from particular orthotic and prosthetic technologies.

(5) The orthotic and prosthetic services that best facilitate the return to active duty of members of the Armed Forces.

(6) The effect of the aging process on the use of prosthetics, including—

(A) increased skin breakdown;

(B) loss of balance;

(C) falls; and

(D) other issues that arise during the aging process.

(c) **GRANTS ON MATERIALS RESEARCH.**—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new materials used in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(d) **GRANTS ON TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.**—The Secretary shall award grants to persons to carry out research on the following:

(1) The improvement of existing orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(2) The development of new orthotic and prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of improving quality of life and health outcomes for individuals with limb loss.

(e) **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.**—A person seeking the award of a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor in the form and accompanied by such information as the Secretary shall require.

(f) **AWARD REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **PEER-REVIEWED PROPOSALS.**—Grants under this section may be awarded only for research that is peer-reviewed.

(2) **COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.**—Grants under this section shall be awarded through competitive procedures.

(g) **GRANT USE.**—A person awarded a grant under subsection (b), (c), or (d) shall use the grant amount to carry out the research described in the applicable subsection.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, veterans, community-based clinicians, and expert researchers in the field of orthotics and prosthetics, submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) An agenda for orthotic and prosthetic research that identifies and prioritizes the most significant unanswered orthotic and prosthetic research questions pertinent to the provision of evidence-based clinical care to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civilians.

(2) For each report after the initial report under this subsection—

(A) a summary of how the grants awarded under subsection (b) are addressing the most

significant orthotic and prosthetic needs; and

(B) the progress made towards resolving orthotic and prosthetic challenges facing members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(i) **VETERAN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program, \$30,000,000 to carry out this section.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1318. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to reintroduce the “West Coast Ocean Protection Act.”

This bill would amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently block new leases for offshore oil or gas in federal waters off the coast of California, Oregon or Washington.

I’m pleased to be joined today by Senators HARRIS, WYDEN, MERKLEY, CANTWELL, MURRAY, MENENDEZ, BOOKER, SANDERS, WHITEHOUSE, MARKEY, GILLIBRAND, PETERS in sponsoring this bill, which has been introduced in every Congress since the Deepwater Horizon disaster in April 2010.

11 people were killed and 17 others injured when the Deepwater Horizon well blew out. Oil and gas spewed into the Gulf of Mexico for 87 days.

Oil slicks covered the Gulf. Tar balls and toxic sludge covered beaches and wetlands. More than one-third of Federal waters in the Gulf were closed to fishing.

The impacts of the Deepwater Horizon disaster continue to affect birds and marine life, and marine biologists are still learning about the long-term effects, demonstrating the risks of offshore oil and gas extraction. Californians know all too well the dangers posed by offshore drilling. Before Deepwater Horizon and Exxon Valdez, there was the 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara.

A well blowout on an offshore rig spilled more than 3 million gallons of crude oil according to some estimates—the worst spill in U.S. history at the time.

The spill closed local beaches—which were covered by a thick layer of oil—and thousands of marine mammals and birds were killed. Tourists were turned away and commercial fishing operations were halted, hurting the local economy.

After the Santa Barbara spill, California had enough. The State blocked all new offshore drilling in state waters—which extend three miles from

the shore—and in 1994 enacted a permanent offshore drilling ban.

Through local ordinances, congressional opposition, and presidential moratoria, all new drilling in federal waters off California has been blocked since 1984. Today, opposition to offshore drilling is higher than ever. Recent polling has found that nearly 70 percent of Californians oppose new drilling off our coast.

Yet, on January 8, 2018, the Trump administration proposed to allow drilling in nearly all Federal waters, including in all three regions off the California coast. The leases are proposed to begin in 2020 and would lead to the first new drilling operations in these areas in more than 35 years. Sixty-eight cities and counties representing a majority of California’s population have voiced their strong opposition to President Trump’s misguided plan.

In an addition, California’s Governor, Senate, Assembly, Attorney General, Coastal Commission, Fish and Game Commission, and State Lands Commission have shared their opposition to the administration’s drilling plan. Fortunately, the Administration has already suggested that its plans for offshore drilling have been delayed as they determine how to respond to legal setbacks. The plans are flawed, and should be withdrawn altogether.

Those of us on the Pacific Coast do not want any further offshore oil and gas development.

It is long past time to respect the substantial local opposition by passing the “West Coast Ocean Protection Act” to permanently ban offshore drilling and protect our coast for generations to come. I yield the floor.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 183—RE-AFFIRMING THE VITAL ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE IN PROMOTING PEACE, STABILITY, AND PROSPERITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION AND BEYOND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 183

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas, for the past 70 years, the alliance between the United States and Japan has played a vital role in ensuring peace, stability, and economic development in Asia and beyond;

Whereas the United States and Japan are deeply committed to the common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and free market economics;

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance, forged nearly six decades ago with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and