

of S. 1499, a bill to establish National Wildlife Corridors to provide for the protection and restoration of certain native fish, wildlife, and plant species, and for other purposes.

S. 1516

At the request of Mr. JONES, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1516, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen the future workforce and reduce the cost of postsecondary education by reducing rates of postsecondary remediation.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide protections for health insurance consumers from surprise billing.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the Transition Assistance Program for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1615

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1615, a bill to amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to provide compensation and credit for retired pay purposes for maternity leave taken by members of the reserve components, and for other purposes.

S. 1641

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1641, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to permit occupational therapists to conduct the initial assessment visit and complete the comprehensive assessment under a Medicare home health plan of care for certain rehabilitation cases.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to require the United States Postal Service to sell the Alzheimer's semipostal stamp for 6 additional years.

S. 1761

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to modernize certain forms and surveys of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution establishing the John S. McCain III Human Rights Commission.

S. RES. 205

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 205, a resolution expressing the gratitude of the Senate for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities.

AMENDMENT NO. 252

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 252 proposed to S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINES (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. KING):

S. 1793. A bill to establish a grant program for the purpose of public health data system modernization; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, Our Nation's public health system needs high quality, timely, and accurate data to protect the public from health threats like opioid overdoses, influenza, measles, and more. Effective prevention and response to health threats requires coordinated efforts between health care providers and public health officials across all levels of government.

Unfortunately, the public health data systems we rely on for our health and safety are antiquated and fragmented. Systems lack the interoperability needed to facilitate timely, secure information exchange. Too often, public health departments are forced to rely on systems with manual processes that are time consuming and error prone, such as paper records, faxes, and phone calls. Only two jurisdictions have begun the process to receive electronic case reports directly from health records, and only for a small number of diseases. Our public health data infrastructure lacks the automation, security, interoperability, and skilled workforce we need to confront the public health threats of today and tomorrow.

Today, I am pleased to introduce with my colleagues, Senator ISAKSON and Senator KING, the Saving Lives Through Better Data Act to assist in building the 21st Century public health data infrastructure our Nation needs. The Saving Lives Through Better Data Act awards grants to State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments to improve data collection and

analysis, simplify provider reporting, enhance interoperability, promote electronic case reporting, and support earlier disease detection and response. Grant recipients must support interoperability standards endorsed by the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology or those adopted by the HHS Secretary.

The Saving Lives Through Better Data Act also requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct activities to improve its public health data systems. The CDC must also develop and utilize public-private partnerships to support State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments in modernizing and expanding electronic case reporting and public health data systems. The legislation calls for reporting on barriers public health authorities may face in implementing electronic case reporting or interoperable public health data systems as well as an assessment of the potential public health impact of making such improvements. We make the necessary investment to improve our public health infrastructure by authorizing \$100 million per year for each of fiscal years 2020–2024.

The Saving Lives Through Better Data Act will strengthen our public health data systems so we can be well-equipped to identify and respond to public health threats, which will save lives.

By Mr. KAINES (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1802. A bill to provide a work opportunity tax credit for military spouses and to provide for flexible spending arrangements for childcare services for military families; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act, with my colleagues Senators BOOZMAN and TESTER. Enacting this bill would improve financial stability for Gold Star families across the Nation.

The families of America's servicemembers make sacrifices that often go unrecognized. Among them is packing up and moving frequently, with military spouses regularly having to quit stable employment to move to a new area and start over. This is compounded by the complex system of State licensing and certification requirements, which can limit these spouses' from taking jobs that utilize their expertise and experience. Because of this, military spouses have unemployment rates substantially higher than the national average, and are often underemployed when they do have jobs. Adding to the financial struggle that frequent periods of unemployment and underemployment cause, the rising cost of childcare puts a substantial burden on many military families.

The Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act would help these families

in two ways. First, the bill makes military spouses an eligible population for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. This tax credit has been proven effective in improving the employment prospects for other groups, and extending it to military spouses would help them find employment easier after moving to new areas. Second, the bill instructs the administration to implement dependent care flexible spending accounts for all servicemembers. These accounts would allow military families to contribute pre-tax dollars to accounts that they can then use to pay for childcare services, helping ease the financial burden of childcare.

I hope my colleagues will support this bill to help families who have made the greatest sacrifice for our Nation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 1803. A bill to modify the Federal TRIO programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Educational Opportunity and Success Act, a bill to strengthen the Federal TRIO Programs and improve their administration. Across the Nation, TRIO helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds gain access to a college education and provide many of the supports that they need to prepare for, succeed in, and graduate from higher education programs. I would very much like to thank Senator BALDWIN, Senator CAPITO, and Senator TESTER for joining me as original cosponsors.

In the State of Maine, TRIO Programs serve students from all over our State and are focused on increasing educational opportunities for first generation, low-income, and disabled students. From 2007 to 2017, TRIO has expanded from 20 programs to 28 in our State and has expanded from serving 6,690 students to nearly 7,500 students in our State. Over the course of my Senate service, I have been so inspired by the stories of countless TRIO students with whom I have talked. They have described to me firsthand the positive impact of these programs on their academic success and on their futures.

For example, Autumn Mallet from Bangor, ME, graduated from Bangor High School in 2015, unsure about whether she even wanted to pursue higher education. Neither she nor her parents had any experience with higher education. That is very typical of what I found in talking with students who are enrolled in the TRIO Programs. Autumn decided to enroll at Eastern Maine Community College, where she connected with TRIO's Student Support Services Program. Autumn called TRIO "irreplaceable" and her "full support system." The academic advisers were her "go-to people" when it came to signing up for classes, finding

tutors, navigating financial aid, and advocating for herself.

Autumn graduated in May 2018 with an associate's degree in liberal studies and secondary education, and she has gone on to the University of Maine where she is currently earning her bachelor's degree. At the University, she also taps into the resources of the Student Support Services Program. And, very movingly, Autumn is giving back to TRIO. She is a TRIO peer mentor at Eastern Maine Community College, helping students, just like herself, successfully navigate higher education and giving them the tools and the confidence to succeed. For Autumn, TRIO has made all the difference as she has pursued her own goals and helped other students achieve theirs.

Congress created the TRIO Programs because it recognized that low-income, first-generation students often face significant financial and societal obstacles to accessing and achieving success in higher education. The Educational Opportunity and Success Act would better serve those students by implementing key reforms.

First, and most important, our bipartisan bill would reauthorize the TRIO Programs for an additional 5 years.

Second, our bill would instruct the Department of Education to publish guidance at least 90 days before each grant competition, giving colleges and universities adequate opportunity to prepare the successful applications to secure the funding needed to offer the TRIO Programs.

Third, our bill would remove the administrative burdens in the application process for these schools, making sure that Federal funds get out the door more efficiently and to the programs and the students they are meant to serve. Under the current administrative process, many colleges and universities experience delays while the Department reviews administrative errors before making all of the grant awards. This reform would help to expedite the grant process.

Fourth, our legislation would institute commonsense guidelines at the Department of Education for TRIO grant applications.

Let me tell you what happened in 2017. In that year, the Department initially rejected dozens of applications for the Upward Bound Program based on arbitrary, nonsubstantive formatting criteria, such as line spacing and font size irregularities. This was bureaucracy at its worst. One of those applications was from the University of Maine at Presque Isle, which had been a longtime recipient of funding to provide TRIO Programs. Here is what happened with the University of Maine at Presque Isle. It submitted a 65-page application. In that application, the University of Maine at Presque Isle used 1½-line spacing instead of double spacing in the text appearing in the graphics on two of its application's 65 pages.

I am not making this up. For that reason alone, because the spacing was

1½ lines rather than 2 on just 2 of the graphs in a 65-page application, the Department of Education rejected it—based on that alone.

The Department's bureaucratic decision would have denied 960 disadvantaged Maine high school students the chance to fulfill their academic potential. Imagine that—that 960 students, who needed the support of the TRIO Program to be successful, would not have been served because of a tiny formatting error on 2 pages of a 65-page application. It was nothing substantive, just a formatting error.

After months of advocacy, I was able to work with the Department of Education and my Appropriations colleagues to reverse this ill-conceived decision, and I am very happy to report that the University of Maine of Presque Isle is today serving those students.

Our bill would prevent the Department of Education from rejecting applications simply on the basis of the formatting criteria that it suggests and instead would establish a straightforward process of correction for applications with minor formatting or budgeting errors. This is a commonsense reform that will prevent unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles in the future—obstacles that have a real impact on the lives of the students who are intended to benefit from the TRIO Programs.

Fifth, our bill would make it simpler for students who receive free and reduced-priced lunches and Pell grants to qualify for the TRIO Programs. Providing income eligibility can be a barrier to services, and this bill would make it easier to identify potential participants for the TRIO Programs.

The bill would also update TRIO eligibility criteria to reflect the most recent requirements for Federal financial aid. This would ensure that TRIO administrators would not have to consult multiple data sources and can instead use a student's most recent financial aid information to determine eligibility for the TRIO Programs rather than having them go through an additional process.

Finally, the bill would require the Department of Education to conduct additional virtual training sessions, better ensuring that all areas of the country—especially our small, rural communities—have the ability to know about and access the TRIO Programs.

As the longtime cochair of the Congressional TRIO Caucus, I have long supported the TRIO Programs. I have worked to ensure that they are reaching the students who most need them. So many students in Maine and across the country have truly had their lives changed by these wonderful programs, such as Upward Bound. They have been introduced to the world of higher education. They have been given the support they need to succeed. In my State, where so many families simply do not have experience with higher education, the TRIO Programs have made all the difference for their sons and daughters.

I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Educational Opportunity and Success Act.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. REED):

S. 1821. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to provide for research on, and the development and deployment of, marine energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, marine energy technologies generate electricity using the natural power found in ocean waves, tides, currents, and temperature differences in ocean water. This nontraditional form of hydropower has the potential to fuel American homes and businesses with renewable electricity and address the very real challenge of climate change. Additionally, establishing a commercially viable marine energy industry in the United States would support a robust manufacturing and construction supply chain and create thousands of good-paying clean energy jobs.

The Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that marine energy could produce enough renewable energy to power millions of homes. Furthermore, with more than half of the U.S. population living within 50 miles of a body of water, there is vast potential for marine energy to efficiently provide clean electricity to communities across the country—from large cities to remote coastal communities.

Because these promising marine renewable energy technologies are still in the early stages of development, federal support is needed to encourage private investments in marine energy projects, moving the United States closer to large-scale deployment of these innovative clean energy technologies.

The Marine Energy Research and Development Act advances this research by reauthorizing DOE's marine renewable energy programs from 2020 through 2021. The bill gives priority to projects and technologies that have the highest likelihood to lead to commercial utilization of new marine energy systems.

The bill also directs DOE to research ways of building a stable marine energy supply chain in the United States, as well as ways of harmonizing marine energy development with ocean navigation, fisheries, and critical infrastructure such as undersea cables.

The bill includes funding authorization for the National Marine Renewable Energy Research Centers, which are located in Florida, Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest. These three centers make use of federal funding and the resources of five universities to test and refine various marine energy technologies. The bill also provides DOE new authority to establish new National Marine Energy Centers.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1823. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 1823

*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 “Children Don’t Belong on Tobacco Farms Act”.

**SEC. 2. TOBACCO-RELATED AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.**

Section 3(l) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(l)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking “in any occupation, or (2)”, and inserting “in any occupation, (2)”; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, or (3) any employee under the age of eighteen years has direct contact with tobacco plants or dried tobacco leaves”; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “other than manufacturing and mining” and inserting “, other than manufacturing, mining, and tobacco-related agriculture as described in paragraph (3) of the first sentence of this subsection.”.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 246—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016**

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 246

Whereas, on June 12, 2016, a gunman inspired by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria targeted the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where he killed 49 innocent victims and wounded dozens more in a despicable attack;

Whereas the attack at the Pulse nightclub was an attack on the LGBTQ community, the Hispanic community, the City of Orlando, the State of Florida, and the United States;

Whereas the Orlando community continues to mourn the tragic loss of life, but has demonstrated remarkable strength, unity, and resilience in the aftermath of the horrendous event;

Whereas June 12 is designated as “Pulse Remembrance Day” in the State of Florida to honor the victims and survivors of the senseless attack;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for those affected by the tragedy; and

Whereas June 12, 2019, marks 3 years since the lives of the 49 innocent victims were tragically cut short by the senseless act of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 49 victims killed in the attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, and offers heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the dozens of survivors of the attack and pledges continued resolve to stand against terrorism and hate; and

(3) expresses gratitude to the brave law enforcement and emergency medical personnel who responded to the attack.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 247—RECOGNIZING JUNE 2019 AS “LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH”**

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

S. RES. 247

Whereas individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as “LGBTQ”) include individuals from—

(1) all States, territories, and the District of Columbia; and

(2) all faiths, races, national origins, socio-economic statuses, education levels, and political beliefs;

Whereas LGBTQ people in the United States have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to the United States and to the world in every aspect, including in the fields of education, law, health, business, science, research, economic development, architecture, fashion, sports, government, music, film, politics, technology, literature, and civil rights;

Whereas LGBTQ people in the United States serve as law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders in all States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas LGBTQ people in the United States serve, and have served, the United States Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Marines honorably and with distinction and bravery;

Whereas an estimated number of more than 100,000 brave service members were discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States between the beginning of World War II and 2011 because of their sexual orientation, including the discharge of more than 13,000 service members under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in place between 1994 and 2011;

Whereas LGBTQ people in the United States serve, and have served, in positions in the Federal Government and State and local governments, including as members of Congress, Governors, mayors, and city council members;

Whereas the demonstrators who protested on June 28, 1969, 50 years ago this year, following a law enforcement raid of the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQ club in New York City,