

ROSEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require alternative options for summer food service program delivery.

S. 1936

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1936, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes.

S. 2041

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2041, a bill to establish the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Initiative to facilitate the installation of zero-emissions vehicle infrastructure on National Forest System land, National Park System land, and certain related land, and for other purposes.

S. 2043

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2043, a bill to provide incentives for hate crime reporting, provide grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, and establish alternative sentencing for individuals convicted under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

S. 2068

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2068, a bill to prohibit the Bureau of the Census from including citizenship data in the legislative redistricting data prepared by the Bureau.

S. 2072

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2072, a bill to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2019, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2112

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to enhance the rights of domestic workers, and for other purposes.

S. 2147

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2147, a bill to double the existing penalties for the provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and to extend the statute of limitations for forfeiture penalties for persons who commit such violations.

S. 2165

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2165, a bill to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2185

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2185, a bill to provide labor standards for certain energy jobs, and for other purposes.

S. 2193

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2193, a bill to require the Administrator of General Services to issue guidance to clarify that Federal agencies may pay by charge card for the charging of Federal electric motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

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

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 263

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 263, a resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2214. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a better defined recruitment and retention incentive program for volunteer emergency service workers; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill with my friend and colleague from Maryland, Senator CARDIN, that will benefit the brave women and men who volunteer as emergency personnel: The Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act.

Across our Nation, volunteer emergency personnel play a critical role in ensuring the safety of our communities and the well-being of our neighbors. They serve as the firefighters, EMS, and other first responders that we depend on in our times of need. The State of Maine, for example, has approximately 9,785 firefighters who serve the State's 1.3 million citizens. Maine is largely a rural State, and more than 90 percent of firefighters are volunteers. Without these dedicated volunteers, many smaller communities would be unable to provide firefighting and other emergency services at all.

Often, communities seek to recruit and retain volunteers by offering modest benefits. One of the most common benefits are Length of Service Award Programs or LOSAPs. These are retirement accounts provided to volunteer emergency responders. The legislation we are introducing today would support these efforts by helping to ensure that these nominal benefits to volunteers are not entangled in bureaucracy or needlessly held back by regulations. Specifically, the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention

Act would simplify how LOSAPs are taxed without increasing or reducing Federal spending or taxes. It would do this by eliminating burdensome and confusing IRS requirements that make it unnecessarily difficult for volunteer emergency personnel to receive benefits and for departments to administer plans.

Mr. President, we should take care to protect our volunteer emergency personnel who serve this country with such bravery. Our legislation would help us achieve that goal, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—COMMENDING THE OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FOR THEIR WORK DURING THE CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SASSE, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 280

Whereas U.S. Customs and Border Protection (referred to in this preamble as “CBP”) is charged with protecting the borders of the United States and facilitating travel and trade;

Whereas the Southern border of the United States is experiencing unprecedented numbers of vulnerable individuals attempting to enter the country;

Whereas, in June 2019, 104,344 individuals were apprehended at the Southern border, which is an increase of more than 140 percent, as compared to June 2018;

Whereas, as of June 2019, the number of individuals apprehended or determined to be inadmissible by CBP at the Southern border in fiscal year 2019 is 780,638, already surpassing the fiscal year 2014 total of 569,287, which was the highest such number in the preceding 5 years;

Whereas the Homeland Security Advisory Council expects Southwest border migration numbers to approach or exceed 1,000,000 individuals in fiscal year 2019 unless immediate action is taken;

Whereas, historically, the majority of individuals arriving at the Southern border have been single adult males from Mexico, but by May 2019, 72 percent of all border enforcement actions were associated with unaccompanied children and family units;

Whereas, due to the constant and increasing flow of migrants crossing the Southern border between ports of entry, financial and human resources are being diverted from the security and law enforcement duties of CBP, resulting in—

(1) fewer seizures of narcotics and illicit currency; and

(2) increased wait times at ports of entry, leading to warnings of possible produce shortages and interruptions in supply chains;

Whereas more than 40 percent of CBP resources are currently being absorbed by the humanitarian crisis at the Southern border;

Whereas the final emergency interim report published by the Homeland Security Ad-

visory Council on April 16, 2019, notes that a substantial number of individuals who are apprehended by CBP require significant personal and medical care that exceeds the ability and capacity of CBP, despite creative and humane attempts by CBP to care for such individuals in CBP custody;

Whereas CBP officers and personnel have raised concerns that overcrowding poses immediate risks to—

(1) the health and safety of the migrants; and

(2) CBP officers;

Whereas CBP officers are experiencing both physical illness and severe mental and emotional distress as a result of the crisis at the Southern border;

Whereas, in May 2019, the Commissioner of CBP requested an additional \$2,100,000 for the Employee Assistance Program of CBP in order to offer additional counseling services to CBP officers and personnel to respond to “unanticipated critical incidents and other emerging crises, such as the unexpected response required for migrant caravans, employee suicides, and the need for a financial wellness program”; and

Whereas, in the face of the most difficult circumstances, CBP officers and personnel continue—

(1) to work undaunted to protect the Southern border; and

(2) to care for the migrants in CBP custody; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the men and women of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, including Border Patrol personnel, Office of Field Operations personnel, Air and Marine Operations personnel, Office of Trade personnel, and all support personnel and their allies for their continued honorable service during the challenging humanitarian crisis at the Southern border; and

(2) calls on Congress to pass legislation to support U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers and to manage the increasing flow of migrants attempting to enter the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 281—COMMITTING TO ELEVATE THE VOICES, LEADERSHIP, AND NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES THAT FACE SYSTEMIC BARRIERS IN THE EFFORT TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SUPPORT ALL SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, INCLUDING IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS, SURVIVORS WHO ARE INCARCERATED, SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES, SURVIVORS OF COLOR, AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE SURVIVORS, SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, AND LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND INTERSEX SURVIVORS

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

S. RES. 281

Whereas sexual violence and gender-based violence are tools of oppression and forms of discrimination that can deprive individuals of equal access to educational opportunities;

Whereas survivors of sexual violence face a significant number of health problems, including chronic conditions, suicide, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, sex stereotypes, pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions;

Whereas the 2015 United States Transgender Survey found that—

(1) 47 percent of transgender people have been sexually assaulted; and

(2) among transgender people of color, 65 percent of Native Americans, 59 percent of multiracial people, 58 percent of Middle Eastern people, and 53 percent of African Americans have been sexually assaulted;

Whereas the Association of American Universities Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct found that nearly 1 in 4 transgender, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, or questioning students experience sexual violence while pursuing an undergraduate degree;

Whereas the National Sexual Violence Resource Center found that 78 percent of transgender or gender non-conforming youth are sexually harassed during the period beginning in kindergarten and ending in 12th grade;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that—

(1) 44 percent of lesbian women and 61 percent of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, compared to 35 percent of heterosexual women; and

(2) 40 percent of gay men and 37 percent of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, compared to 21 percent of heterosexual men;

Whereas the National Women’s Law Center 2017 Let Her Learn Survey found that 38 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender teen girls reported experiencing sexual violence, compared to 21 percent of all girls;

Whereas, according to the Department of Justice, people with disabilities are 3.5 times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault than people without disabilities;

Whereas, according to the Vera Institute of Justice—

(1) children with disabilities are 3 times more likely than children without disabilities to be sexually abused; and

(2) 83 percent of women and 32 percent of men with cognitive disabilities reported being victims of sexual assault;

Whereas women of all races and ethnicities face some risk of sexual assault, and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 33 percent of multiracial non-Hispanic women, nearly 27 percent of indigenous women, 22 percent of Black women, nearly 19 percent of White non-Hispanic women, more than 14 percent of Hispanic women, and 7 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander women in the United States have experienced rape;

Whereas, according to a research report by the National Institute of Justice, 56.1 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence;

Whereas sexual violence also affects adolescent girls and, according to the National Women’s Law Center 2017 Let Her Learn Survey, 1 in 5 girls aged 14 to 18 has been kissed or touched without consent, including 24 percent of Latina girls, 23 percent of Native American girls, and 22 percent of Black girls;

Whereas studies show that sexual violence and gender-based violence are underreported crimes, indicating that the rates of sexual violence and gender-based violence may be even higher than these estimates;

Whereas too many survivors from communities that face systemic barriers are ignored, blamed, and cast aside when seeking support after experiencing a form of sexual violence or gender-based violence;