

Mr. President, I ask that these letters be entered into the RECORD immediately after my remarks.

Efforts at further reform of America's health care system have been the source of frustration and division in this chamber. At the same time, many members of both parties are committed to reducing health care costs and expanding access to quality, affordable coverage. The programs adopted by seven pioneering states have a proven track-record in reducing premiums for consumers and would make policies in the individual market more affordable. The bill Senator MANCHIN and I are introducing today would help extend and fund these successful models to every state that chooses to participate, helping to reduce premiums for the 11.5 million Americans who get their insurance in the individual market nationwide. I urge my colleagues to support our bill.

MAY 28, 2019.

DEAR LEADERS MCCONNELL AND SCHUMER, SPEAKER PELOSI AND LEADER MCCARTHY: As providers of health care and coverage to hundreds of millions of Americans, we write to you to urge prompt action to lower health insurance premiums. The individual market is a critical source of coverage for millions of Americans, helping them to access care. Unfortunately, however, individual market premiums are often unaffordable for many middle class families who do not receive any financial assistance. With health insurers finalizing their premium rates for 2020, the time is now for Congress to establish a premium reduction/reinsurance program to help cover the costs of people with significant health care needs and improve the affordability of health care coverage.

A reinsurance program is a commonsense solution to significantly lower premiums, which would greatly improve access to coverage and care. Independent analyses, including ones by Oliver Wyman and Avalere Health, show that a premium reduction/reinsurance program could reduce premiums by up to 20% while preserving the comprehensiveness of coverage, primarily helping those who are not subsidy eligible.

We understand that there are numerous efforts in Congress underway to establish a premium reduction/reinsurance program, and we are happy to work with all parties towards a final bill that will improve the individual market for 2020 and beyond.

We urge you to deliver on the promise to reduce premiums for millions of deserving Americans and their families so they can access the care they need. We look forward to working with you in support of this promise.

Sincerely,

AMERICA'S HEALTH
INSURANCE PLANS.
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS.
AMERICAN BENEFITS
COUNCIL.
AMERICAN HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION.
AMERICAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION.
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD
ASSOCIATION.
FEDERATION OF AMERICAN
HOSPITALS.
U.S. CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONERS AND THE CENTER FOR INSURANCE POLICY AND RESEARCH,

June 12, 2019.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
Senator, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: On behalf of the members of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) we write to express our support for your continued efforts to help improve the individual health insurance markets in our states through the funding of state stabilization programs.

While many states have seen more stable premium rates and carrier participation over the past two years, the fact remains that in all states premiums continue to be significant for those who do not receive federal subsidies. This has resulted in shrinking individual markets and less stable risk pools. Action must be taken to make coverage more affordable or we will see even higher uninsured rates, more people move to less-regulated plans, and sicker individual market pools.

This is why commissioners from across the political spectrum have contacted their congressional delegations, testified before House and Senate committees, and urged federal policymakers to take immediate action to stabilize the individual health insurance market. In particular, we support your proposal to provide federal funding for state stabilization programs, as well as for grants to help states develop innovative solutions through Section 1332 waivers. We also support the creation of a federal program to assist consumers in states unable to implement their own program quickly.

State reinsurance programs and invisible high-risk pools have already proven their effectiveness. According to a recent Avalere study, the seven states that have already implemented a program through a Section 1332 waiver using state funds have reduced premium by almost 20%. Additional federal funding, as outlined in your bill, would provide even more benefit to consumers, and extend the benefits to all states.

Creating a federal market stabilization program is a cost-effective way to significantly reduce individual market premiums, thus making coverage more affordable to unsubsidized individuals and families and growing the individual market pool. We have seen it work in the handful of states that have implemented such programs; it is time to implement it nationwide.

Sincerely,

ERIC A. CIOPPA,
NAIC President, Superintendent,
Maine Bureau of Insurance.

RAYMOND G. FARMER,
NAIC President-Elect,
Director, South Carolina Department of Insurance.

DAVID ALTMAYER,
NAIC Vice President,
Commissioner, Florida Office of Insurance.

DEAN L. CAMERON,
NAIC Secretary-Treasurer, Director, Regulation Idaho Department of Insurance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2635. A bill to require the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

to declassify any and all information relating to whether the government of Saudi Arabia assisted a citizen or national of Saudi Arabia in departing the United States while the citizen or national was awaiting trial or sentencing for a criminal offense committed in the United States, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

S. 2635

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 "Saudi Fugitive Declassification Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DECLASSIFICATION OF ANY AND ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA TO ASSIST PERSONS IN DEPARTING UNITED STATES WHO WERE AWAITING TRIAL OR SENTENCING IN UNITED STATES.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, shall declassify any and all information related to whether the government of Saudi Arabia materially assisted or facilitated any citizen or national of Saudi Arabia in departing from the United States while the citizen or national was awaiting trial or sentencing for a criminal offense committed in the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 360—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO SAFE, QUALITY EDUCATION, INCLUDING PROTECTION FROM ATTACKS ON EDUCATION, FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

Mr. MURPHY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 360

Whereas providing children with education is critical to the international, humanitarian, and development efforts of the United States;

Whereas 142,000,000 children live in high-intensity conflict zones, according to a February 2019 report from Save the Children;

Whereas grave violations against children, which are defined by the United Nations Security Council as the killing and maiming of children, recruitment or use of children as soldiers, sexual violence against children, abduction of children, and attacks against schools or hospitals, have nearly tripled since 2010;

Whereas attacks on education settings, including targeted killings, sexual and gender-based violence, abduction, child recruitment, intimidation, threats, military occupation, and destruction of property, are common tactics in conflict;

Whereas there were 1,432 verified attacks on schools in conflict contexts in 2017, according to the United Nations Secretary General's annual report on children and armed conflict;

Whereas conflict limits educational opportunities for millions of students worldwide, and regions with low rates of education have a 50-percent chance of experiencing conflict;

Whereas 27,000,000 children of primary and lower secondary school age are out of school

in 24 conflict-affected countries, and refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school as compared to nonrefugee children;

Whereas only 61 percent of refugee children attend primary school compared to 92 percent of nonrefugee children, only 23 percent of refugee adolescents attend secondary school compared to 84 percent globally, and only 1 percent of refugee children make it to a university;

Whereas education in emergencies is lifesaving, providing access to critical services, including nutrition, health services, mental health and psychosocial support, water, sanitation, and hygiene;

Whereas education supports children's safety and well-being as part of child protection strategies;

Whereas education accounts for less than 2 percent of total global humanitarian funding and child-specific protection programs account for 0.53 percent;

Whereas girls and boys experience conflict differently, encounter distinct gender-related barriers to education, and require gender-responsive and context-specific approaches to education, child protection, and health services, including mental health and psychosocial support programming;

Whereas girls, children with disabilities, and those impacted by traumatic experiences living in conflict contexts face significant barriers to access, enrollment, and attendance in schools;

Whereas access to quality educational opportunities can contribute to peace and security as well as mitigate factors that lead to conflict and displacement; and

Whereas Congress passed the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (Public Law 115-56), and the Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act (Public Law 115-442), which recognize the importance of education in crisis and conflict situations, and require reporting on progress toward a comprehensive United States strategy to promote quality basic education in partner countries and address the needs of displaced girls: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns attacks on education settings, including violence against schools, the military use of schools, acts of sexual violence against children in school settings, and the abduction and recruitment of children into armed forces from schools;

(2) affirms the commitment of the United States Government to support educational services for children affected by conflict, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, beginning in the earliest phases of humanitarian response efforts—

(A) to save lives and facilitate access to critical services, including nutrition, health, psychosocial support, water, sanitation, and hygiene;

(B) to support physical, psychosocial, and cognitive protection; and

(C) to support greater short- and long-term stability, promote peace, and support the vital contributions of women and girls to communities, nations, and regions around the world; and

(3) calls on the United States Government—

(A) to monitor attacks on education settings, including attacks on schools, teachers, and students, and attacks that are gender-related, and to use that information to support effective and coordinated diplomatic and programmatic responses;

(B) to hold accountable all parties, including government and non-state actors, responsible for attacks on schools and other grave violations against children in armed conflict;

(C) to support policies and programs to return refugee children to educational settings as soon as possible upon arrival in a host country;

(D) to provide support for the inclusion of refugee children in host country national education plans and systems whenever possible;

(E) to recognize that education in emergencies and child protection programs are lifesaving and complementary efforts that are strongest when equally supported;

(F) to ensure that marginalized children in conflict settings, especially girls, children with disabilities, those suffering from trauma, and those excluded from access to quality and inclusive education due to other causes, are able to access safe, quality education;

(G) to ensure appropriate training and support for teachers to best support students' distinct needs, including their psychosocial well-being, and to apply conflict-sensitive and gender-responsive approaches;

(H) to encourage the inclusion of child protection experts in peacekeeping missions, to push for reporting requirements on attacks on schools and children in peacekeeping mandates, and to support the inclusion of child rights experts in justice and accountability mechanisms;

(I) to support preventative measures, such as early warning systems and rapid response mechanisms, in places where attacks on education occur or are highly likely to occur; and

(J) to work in collaboration with civil society experts to better prevent and respond to attacks on education, and with relevant multilateral institutions and other nations to share responsibility for monitoring, preventing, and responding to attacks on education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 361—ACKNOWLEDGING THE KURDS' VITAL ROLE IN STOPPING THE SPREAD OF ISIS MILITANTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 361

Whereas, in 2014, the United States led an international coalition against Islamic State (ISIS) militants, conducting airstrikes and later building military bases on Syrian territory to assist ground operations against ISIS;

Whereas a coalition of Arab and Kurdish militias, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), with the help of United States airstrikes and military advisors, drove ISIS away from the Turkish border and out of northern Syria;

Whereas, since ISIS militants swept across Syria and military action against ISIS began, the SDF has done the critical work of clearing, holding, and governing the territory previously conquered by the ISIS militants;

Whereas the SDF became one of the United States' strongest partners in fighting ISIS as fearless and loyal fighters who fought fiercely alongside United States special operations forces and other coalition partners, losing over 10,000 SDF troops throughout the course of military operations;

Whereas the SDF with coalition support captured approximately 11,000 ISIS fighters and detained them in Kurdish-held territory;

Whereas the Kurds have assisted humanitarian efforts in the area, including caring

for refugees and operating more than a dozen camps for displaced families, helping tens of thousands of people, many of them the wives and children of ISIS fighters;

Whereas the Government of Turkey is hostile toward Kurdish groups living along its border with Syria, claiming that the Kurdish fighters in Syria are linked to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has been in conflict with Turkey for the past several decades;

Whereas the SDF has not engaged in offensive operations against Turkey and has served as a buffer preventing extremist fighters from launching attacks into Turkey and beyond;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces were ordered to withdraw from sites along the Turkish border in northern Syria, followed by a Turkish incursion that began on October 9, 2019;

Whereas the withdrawal of United States troops and the ongoing conflict between Turkey and Kurdish-led fighters will allow ISIS to profit from the instability in the region, as SDF counter-ISIS missions have been suspended, and Kurdish-held ISIS prisoners are in danger of being released from confinement, as the SDF no longer have the capacity to guard detention facilities while they are engaged in defensive operations against Turkish forces; and

Whereas the withdrawal of United States forces from northern Syria has severely damaged our relationship with our Kurdish partners, effectively forcing them to ally with the Assad regime, allowing the Governments of the Russian Federation and Iran to expand their influence in the region, while at the same time laying the groundwork for an ISIS resurgence, damaging the United States's standing in the international community and undermining both regional security as well as our own national security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to acknowledge the importance of the Kurds' vital role in stopping the spread of ISIS militants in the region;

(2) that ISIS still poses a danger in the Middle East and beyond and must not be allowed the opportunity to mount an effective resurgence campaign;

(3) that the United States Government must continue its leading role in promoting peace in the Middle East and fighting against terrorist groups such as ISIS, wherever they may be located; and

(4) that the Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Department of State, should provide a briefing to Congress within 30 days outlining plans and a strategy to continue the global fight against ISIS, specifically addressing the ongoing threat of ISIS in Syria and Iraq and how this strategy will—

(A) prevent an ISIS resurgence in Syria;

(B) prevent ISIS efforts to capitalize from recent developments;

(C) contain any ISIS expansion in Syria or in nations bordering Syria;

(D) mitigate the threat of ISIS attacks on the United States homeland or our partners and allies; and

(E) protect the gains made in the fight against ISIS since 2014.

SENATE RESOLUTION 362—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 13, 2019, AS "NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK"

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