

S. RES. 403

Whereas farm to school programs of varying scale operate in nearly 43,000 schools across the United States;

Whereas farm to school programs connect schools and local farms in order to—

(1) serve nutritious meals in school cafeterias; and

(2) support local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen;

Whereas farm to school programs include experiential education components that can lead to permanent improvements in the diets of children, both in school and at home;

Whereas farm to school programs facilitate the purchase of local food for school meals;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit small and mid-sized agricultural producers by providing access to consistent markets;

Whereas farm to school programs can be particularly important for beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers, as schools provide a consistent and secure customer base;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit local economies;

Whereas for every \$1 spent on local foods in schools, up to an additional \$2 circulates in the local economy;

Whereas data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that only 7 percent of children consume the recommended amount of vegetables;

Whereas communities with high levels of poverty have less access to fresh fruits and vegetables than higher income communities;

Whereas the increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is 1 of 6 major strategies to prevent and control obesity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas studies have demonstrated that children in schools with an active farm to school program increase their average consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by 1 or more servings per day;

Whereas farm to school programs—

(1) are popular among children;

(2) can increase interest in school meal programs; and

(3) can decrease food waste; and

Whereas October 2019 would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Farm to School Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1)

extends heartfelt sympathy to the family of Toni Morrison on the occasion of her death;

(2) recognizes Toni Morrison as—

(A) one of the most formidable scholars, educators, and authors of the United States; and

(B) a writer of the stature of other great literary figures of the United States, such as—

(i) Nathaniel Hawthorne;

(ii) Ralph Waldo Emerson;

(iii) Herman Melville;

(iv) Walt Whitman;

(v) Mark Twain; and

(vi) William Faulkner;

(3) honors the life of Toni Morrison and the achievements of Toni Morrison in humanities and literature; and

(4) expresses deep appreciation for the exceptional and vital work of Toni Morrison, including—

(A) the vehemence of the work;

(B) the uncensored exploration of race in the United States that the work presented; and

(C) the enduring impact the work has had, and will continue to have, on the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 403—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH”

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

SENATE RESOLUTION 404—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD WORK IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND CONTINUE TO EXERCISE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL,

(2) was honored at the Fete du Livre organized by Les Ecritures Croisées at the Cité du Livre in Aix-en-Provence, France; and

(3) delivered a lecture at a lecture series sponsored by the United Nations Secretary General;

Whereas, in 2002, Toni Morrison—

(1) delivered the Alexander Lectures at the University of Toronto; and

(2) wrote the libretto for “Margaret Garner” with composer Richard Danielpour, an opera that was co-commissioned by—

(A) the Michigan Opera Theatre;

(B) the Cincinnati Opera; and

(C) the Opera Company of Philadelphia;

Whereas, in 2003—

(1) Toni Morrison received the Docteur Honoris Causa from the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, France; and

(2) Knopf published the novel “Love” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 2004, Toni Morrison—

(1) delivered the Amnesty International Lecture in Edinburgh, Scotland;

(2) received the “Arts and Communities” award from the Academy of Culture in Paris, France; and

(3) received the Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Fiction from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People;

Whereas, in 2005, Toni Morrison—

(1) received—

(A) the Du Bois Medal from the W.E.B. DuBois Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and

(B) the Coretta Scott King Award from the American Library Association; and

(2) was awarded a doctor of letters from Oxford University in Oxford, England;

Whereas, in 2006—

(1) the New York Times rated “Beloved”, by Toni Morrison as the “Best Work of American Fiction of the Last 25 Years”; and

(2) Toni Morrison—

(A) through the “Grand Invité” program of the Musée du Louvre in Paris, France, was the Guest Curator of the Musée du Louvre; and

(B) was named a Life Trustee of the New York Public Library;

Whereas, in 2007, Toni Morrison was awarded—

(1) the Docteur Honoris Causa from the Université Paris Sorbonne – Paris IV in Paris, France; and

(2) the Radcliffe Institute Medal from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts;

Whereas, in 2008, Knopf published the novel “A Mercy” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 2010, Toni Morrison received the Chevalier Ordre National de la Légion d’honneur, the highest national order of merit in France;

Whereas, in 2011, Toni Morrison wrote the play “Desdemona”, which premiered in Vienna, Austria;

Whereas, in 2012—

(1) Toni Morrison delivered the Ingersoll Lecture at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts;

(2) Knopf published the novel “Home” by Toni Morrison; and

(3) President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, to Toni Morrison for her literary work and legacy as “one of our nation’s most celebrated novelists”;

Whereas, in 2014, Toni Morrison received the Ivan Sandroff Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Book Critics Circle;

Whereas, in 2015, Knopf published the novel “God Help the Child” by Toni Morrison;

Whereas, in 2016—

Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 404

Whereas the consensus among climatologists and scientists studying the effects of atmospheric change, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the National Academy of Science, the United States Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and other agencies within the United States Global Change Research Program, have determined that the impact of climate change will include widespread effects on health and welfare, including increased outbreaks from waterborne diseases, more droughts, diminished agricultural production, severe storms and floods, heat waves, wildfires, and a substantial rise in global sea levels;

Whereas the objective of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system;

Whereas, under the UNFCCC, the United States is obligated to report its progress on reducing emissions;

Whereas the Senate provided its advice and consent to the UNFCCC by division, with two-thirds of Senators present voting in the affirmative, on October 7, 1992;

Whereas, in 2011, at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the UNFCCC in Durban, South Africa, parties agreed to negotiate an agreement by the end of 2015 to reduce emissions in the post-2020 period;

Whereas the UNFCCC calls on parties to submit intended nationally determined contributions outlining voluntary individual targets for emissions reductions by the time parties convened in Paris on November 30, 2015, for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UNFCCC;

Whereas, prior to completing the multilateral Paris Agreement on international cooperation to address climate change, done at Paris December 12, 2015, 187 nations, representing more than 97 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, voluntarily submitted nationally determined goals and plans to reduce their greenhouse gas pollution;

Whereas, according to research and data analysis conducted independently by NOAA, NASA, the Met Office Hadley Centre for Climate Science and Services of the United Kingdom, the Japan Meteorological Agency, and Berkeley Earth, each of the years 2014 through 2018 rank among the five warmest years on record;

Whereas, according to NASA, 18 of the 19 warmest years on record have occurred since 2000;

Whereas, according to NOAA, 2019 will likely be the second warmest year on record, making the last six years the warmest years on record;

Whereas the United States-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change of November 2014 included a United States goal to reduce its emissions by 26–28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025 and a Chinese goal to peak emissions

output by 2030 and increase the use of non-fossil fuels to 20 percent of its overall energy portfolio by 2030;

Whereas, under the United States-India Joint Announcement on Climate and Clean Energy of January 2015, the two countries pledged to increase cooperation on clean energy financing and development and India committed to phase out use of hydrofluorocarbons and increase promotion of energy efficiency tools and reaffirmed its commitment to add 100 gigawatts of solar capacity by 2022;

Whereas small island states, whose people are among the most vulnerable to climate change, are threatened with partial or virtually total inundation by imminent rises in sea level and increased intensity and frequency of storms;

Whereas United States international leadership on the global stage throughout the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of Parties process resulted in unprecedented international cooperation and engagement on the development of the Paris Agreement;

Whereas the Paris Agreement received consensus approval from the more than 190 delegates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of Parties;

Whereas the Paris Agreement reached its thresholds for entry into force faster than any other multilateral international agreement of comparable size and scope;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, 187 of the 197 parties to the Paris Agreement have officially joined the agreement, demonstrating the urgency and importance the global community places on addressing climate change;

Whereas studies conducted by the NASA Earth Observatory determined that as the oceans have warmed, polar ice has melted and porous landmasses have subsided, global mean sea level has risen by 8 inches (20 centimeters) since 1870, and the rate of sea level rise is faster now than at any time in the past 2,000 years, having doubled in the past two decades, putting 55 to 60 percent of United States citizens who live in counties touching the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Great Lakes at risk from the effects of sea level rise;

Whereas the Department of Defense has identified climate change as a “threat multiplier” that will increase global instability and conflict, with the potential to increase terrorism;

Whereas the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review states that “[t]he impacts of climate change may increase the frequency, scale, and complexity of future missions, including defense support to civil authorities, while at the same time undermining the capacity of our domestic installations to support training activities,” and notes that—

(1) climate change may exacerbate water scarcity and lead to sharp increases in food costs;

(2) the pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world; and

(3) these effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions—conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence;

Whereas the Department of Defense report, “National Security Implications of Climate-Related Risks and a Changing Climate”—

(1) states that global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for United States national security interests over the foreseeable future because it will aggravate

existing problems, such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership, and weak political institutions, that threaten domestic stability in a number of countries; and

(2) identifies four general areas of climate-related risks: persistently recurring conditions such as flooding, drought, and higher temperatures; more frequent and more severe extreme weather events; sea level rise and temperature changes; and decreases in Arctic ice cover, type, and thickness;

Whereas the Director of National Intelligence's 2017 Global Trends Report determined that—

(1) changes in the climate will produce more extreme weather events and put greater stress on humans and critical systems, including oceans, freshwater, and biodiversity;

(2) these changes, in turn, will have direct and indirect social, economic, political, and security effects; and

(3) extreme weather can trigger crop failures, wildfires, energy blackouts, infrastructure breakdown, supply chain breakdowns, migration, and infectious disease outbreaks, and will be more pronounced as people concentrate in climate vulnerable locations, such as cities, coastal areas, and water-stressed regions;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture has determined that climate change is likely to diminish continued progress on global food security through production disruptions that lead to local availability limitations and price increases, interrupted transport conduits, and diminished food safety, among other causes;

Whereas, according to the World Bank, approximately 1,600,000,000 people currently live in countries and regions with absolute water scarcity and the number is expected to rise to 2,800,000,000 people by 2025 due to the effects of climate change;

Whereas a 2018 special report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways found with “high confidence”, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, that—

(1) human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0 degree Celsius of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8 degrees Celsius to 1.2 degrees Celsius;

(2) global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius between 2030 and 2052 if global warming continues to increase at the current rate; and

(3) climate-related risks for natural and human systems are higher for global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius than at present, but lower than at 2 degrees Celsius; and

Whereas the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) completed in November 2018, developed by the United States Global Change Research Program, in collaboration and cooperation with 13 Federal agencies, “to advance understanding of the changing Earth system and maximize efficiencies in Federal global change research”—

(1) concludes that—

(A) the evidence of human-caused climate change is overwhelming and continues to strengthen;

(B) the impacts of climate change are intensifying across the United States;

(C) climate-related threats to the physical, social, and economic well-being of the United States are rising; and

(D) “[t]he impacts and costs of climate change are already being felt in the United States, and changes in the likelihood or severity of some recent extreme weather

events can now be attributed with increasingly higher confidence to human-caused warming”; and

(2) includes summary findings that—

(A) the quality and quantity of water available for use by people and ecosystems across the United States are being affected by climate change, increasing risks and costs to agriculture, energy production, industry, recreation, and the environment;

(B) impacts from climate change on extreme weather and climate-related events, air quality, and the transmission of disease through insects and pests, food, and water increasingly threaten the health and well-being of the people of the United States, particularly vulnerable populations;

(C) climate change increasingly threatens the livelihoods, economies, health, and cultural identities of indigenous communities by disrupting interconnected social, physical, and ecological systems;

(D) the aging and deteriorating infrastructure of the United States is further stressed by increases in heavy precipitation events, coastal flooding, heat, wildfires, and other extreme events, as well as changes to average precipitation and temperature; and

(E) without adaptation, climate change will continue to degrade infrastructure performance over the rest of the century, with the potential for cascading impacts that threaten the economy, national security, and essential services of the United States and the health and well-being of the United States people: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should—

(1) work in cooperation with the international community and continue to exercise global leadership in our shared responsibilities, including holding parties accountable for meeting their commitments, and address the causes and effects of climate change;

(2) remain party to the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC;

(3) reassert strong leadership in implementing the Paris Agreement;

(4) as acknowledged in the Nationally Determined Contribution submitted by the United States to the UNFCCC in 2015, take action to substantially accelerate the current pace of greenhouse gas emission reductions in order to achieve, or surpass, the emissions reduction target of the United States;

(5) ensure that the development of the policies and procedures prescribed by the Paris Agreement achieve maximum benefits for the United States; and

(6) implement its commitments under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC.

SENATE RESOLUTION 405—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER AS “BRAIN HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. GRASSLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

S. RES. 405

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States suffer from behavioral health conditions, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, or a traumatic brain injury or acquired brain injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain;

Whereas a serious behavioral health condition, such as schizophrenia, or a traumatic brain injury or acquired brain injury, such as

a stroke, that disrupts the normal function of the brain often is linked to a lifetime of cognitive and behavioral challenges;

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States struggle with challenges caused by a traumatic brain injury, stroke, or mental health conditions;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of members and veterans of the Armed Forces have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and millions more have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their service, which can lead to persistent challenges for those members and veterans and their families;

Whereas approximately 1 in 5 people in the United States struggle with behavioral health disorders each year, but a majority of those people do not seek treatment for their condition, often due to the stigma associated with doing so;

Whereas early and adequate access to care, such as imaging technology that can identify areas of the brain that have been compromised, promotes health and can greatly increase the overall quality of life of many individuals in the United States;

Whereas grassroots organizations such as Brain Health Now of Iowa and Mental Health Connecticut, which are dedicated to ending the stigma of mental illness, have called for every individual in the United States to treat health conditions affecting the brain with the same regard and care as physical illnesses, such as heart disease; and

Whereas it is important to educate the public on the incidence and prevalence of brain injury and disease and to support the needs of those who are injured: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October as “Brain Health Awareness Month”; and

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to use Brain Health Awareness Month as an opportunity to promote greater acceptance of and support for individuals living with diseases or injuries affecting the brain.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Andeliz N. Castille, of New York, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, Alma L. Golden, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Peter M. Haymond, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Alina L. Romanowski, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, and Leslie Meredith Tsou, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, all of the Department of State.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing following nominations: Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Steven J. Menashi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jodi W. Dishman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Richard Ernest Myers II, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Sarah E. Pitlyk, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Daniel Mack Traynor, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota, Barbara Lagoa and Robert J. Luck, both of Florida, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Sylvia Carreno-Coll, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, John M. Gallagher, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Sherri A. Lydon, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 31, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Tessa Silverman, a member of my staff, during today’s session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHO CARRIED OUT THE MISSION THAT KILLED ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, last weekend, elite U.S. Special Operations forces embarked on a daring and dangerous mission to locate and kill or capture the terrorist leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

These soldiers knew that Baghdadi’s compound was well guarded by radical Islamic terrorists who placed little