

across the economy. In response to a reduced workforce due to workers that are ill, quarantined, or have new caregiving duties, companies that are losing business may need to lay off workers—even those that are healthy, if they are unable to keep their doors open. We need to extend emergency UI benefits, but just as importantly, we should incentivize employers to not lay off workers for what we hope will be a temporary public health emergency.

That is where work sharing can play a critical role, as it encourages, through the UI system, employers and employees to voluntarily reduce hours instead of laying people off. The concept of work sharing is simple—it provides an alternative to help businesses that are experiencing a temporary slowdown the chance to retain employees on a less than full-time basis. By giving struggling companies the flexibility to reduce hours instead of their workforce, work sharing programs prevent layoffs and help employers save money on rehiring costs. All the while, workers who otherwise would be in danger of losing their jobs completely—would keep their jobs instead, with the UI system making up for lost wages.

According to the Department of Labor, work sharing saved approximately 570,000 jobs in the wake of the Great Recession (2008–2015). As part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, Congress enacted my Layoff Prevention Act of 2012, which provided temporary Federal financing for 100 percent of work sharing benefits paid to workers. States also received -1/ grants for implementation, improved administration, and program enrollment efforts. This assistance helped save over 130,000 jobs from 2012 to its sunset in 2015. Multiple studies have found that communities that adopted more robust work-sharing programs weathered the recession with lower unemployment rates. But even more jobs could have been saved if these programs had been in place before business slowed down.

The legislation I am introducing today would address the current public health emergency and help soften the blow of future slowdowns. The Preventing Layoffs During a Public Health Emergency Act would provide financing to States with and without formal work sharing laws during the period of a public health emergency, and up to one year after the termination of the emergency. The Layoff Prevention Act would provide a more permanent solution to give States an incentive to expand their work sharing programs to prevent future layoffs and blunt economic downturns.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senators WHITEHOUSE and SANDERS in supporting passage of both bills to keep American workers on the job, save taxpayers money, and provide employers with a practical, positive, and cost-effective alternative to layoffs.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 542—COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 542

Whereas the Dachau concentration camp, established in March 1933—

(1) was the first concentration camp established by the German National Socialist, or “Nazi”, government; and

(2) operated continuously until the end of World War II in 1945;

Whereas the Dachau concentration camp housed Germans who were deemed political, racial, or social threats by the Nazi regime, including Communists, Social Democrats, Jews, Roma, members of the clergy, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and other religious and cultural minorities;

Whereas, in addition to Germans, prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp included Poles, Hungarians, Austrians, Italians, Lithuanians, Czechs, Slovenes, Belgians, and other foreign nationals from countries occupied or invaded by Germany;

Whereas the Nazis imprisoned more than 200,000 civilians in the Dachau concentration camp and the more than 100 subcamps of the Dachau concentration camp;

Whereas the Nazis murdered tens of thousands of innocent civilians at the Dachau concentration camp, one of many camps where the Nazis brutally killed millions of people, including 6,000,000 Jews, during the Holocaust;

Whereas the Nazis tortured and conducted medical experiments on civilian prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp, including by—

(1) subjecting the prisoners to pressure extremes;

(2) submersing the prisoners in freezing water;

(3) forcing the prisoners to drink salt water; and

(4) infecting the prisoners with malaria;

Whereas the Nazis subjected civilian prisoners at the Dachau concentration camp to forced labor—

(1) first for the initial construction and expansion of the camp; and

(2) later primarily for armaments production to supply the German military;

Whereas, following the advance of Allied Forces, the Nazi regime began the systematic transfer of prisoners from evacuated concentration camps to the Dachau concentration camp for continued imprisonment;

Whereas, in December 1943, Dwight D. Eisenhower was appointed as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces and led the formal coordination of the Allied Forces, with the mission to liberate Europe;

Whereas, on April 29, 1945, the 45th Infantry “Thunderbird” Division of the Seventh Army of the United States (referred to in this preamble as the “45th Infantry Division”), under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Felix Sparks, member of the Colorado Army National Guard and Commander of the Third Battalion of the 157th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division, along with units of the 42nd Infantry Division and the 20th Armored Division, led the

liberation of the main Dachau concentration camp;

Whereas the 45th Infantry Division—

(1) was composed of National Guard units from Colorado, Oklahoma, Arizona, and New Mexico; and

(2) deployed in June 1943 in support of the Allied Forces during World War II;

Whereas, in the European theater of operation, the 45th Infantry Division suffered—

(1) 1,831 deaths in battle; and

(2) 7,791 casualties;

Whereas, in 1985, the United States Army Center of Military History and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum honored the 45th Infantry Division with recognition as a “liberating unit”; and

Whereas commemoration of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp will instill in all people of the United States a greater awareness of the unspeakable tragedies of the Holocaust: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates April 29, 2020, as the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp during World War II;

(2) condemns the crimes against humanity committed by the Nazi regime; and

(3) recognizes the valorous efforts of the 45th Infantry Division, the 42nd Infantry Division, and the 20th Armored Division of the Seventh Army of the United States in the liberation of the thousands of individuals imprisoned at the Dachau concentration camp.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 543—RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON ITS 108TH BIRTHDAY AND CELEBRATING ITS LEGACY OF CREATING LEADERS IN GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS, INCLUDING THE 2019 NATIONAL GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUTS

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 543

Whereas the Girl Scout Movement was founded on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, by Juliette Gordon Low, whose life mission was to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place;

Whereas Girl Scouts continues to help girls build a strong sense of self, seek challenges and learn from setbacks, display positive values, form and maintain healthy relationships, and identify and solve problems in their communities;

Whereas, in 2020, Girl Scouts combines research-backed, innovative programming catered to girls in science, technology, engineering, and math, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, and other areas, in an all-girl, girl-led environment in which the specific needs of girls are addressed and met;

Whereas Girl Scouts in grades 9 through 12 can advance their civic engagement by earning the Gold Award, the most highly regarded award in the world for girls;

Whereas, to earn the Gold Award, Girl Scouts tackle issues that are important to them and drive lasting innovation while demonstrating essential skills, such as critical thinking, communication, project management, collaboration, and public speaking;

Whereas, each year, approximately 6,000 Girl Scouts earn the Gold Award, displaying

their leadership as trailblazers and opening opportunities for scholarships, preferred admission for college, and amazing career opportunities;

Whereas, each year, Girl Scouts selects 10 exceptionally inspiring Gold Award Girl Scouts, nominated by local councils, as National Gold Award Girl Scouts;

Whereas National Gold Award Girl Scouts have completed projects that demonstrate extraordinary leadership, have a measurable and sustainable effect, and address a local challenge relating to a national or global issue; and

Whereas the 2019 National Gold Award Girl Scouts are Isabella Madrigal from Temecula, California, Mary Katherine Futrell from Dallas, Texas, Minely Millan from Calle Rosa Imperial in Puerto Rico, Lauren Vanlandingham from St. Louis, Missouri, Phoebe Wall from Redmond, Washington, Taryn-Marie Jenkins from Wilmington, Delaware, Grace Goodpasture from Ashland, Virginia, Megan Loh from Placentia, California, Ana De Almeida Amaral from Chula Vista, California, and Kai Zaragoza from Pembroke Pines, Florida: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Girl Scouts of the United States of America for 108 years of creating changemakers by nurturing and supporting the leadership development of girls;

(2) congratulates the Girl Scouts who earned the Gold Award in 2019, including the National Gold Award Girl Scouts; and

(3) encourages Girl Scouts of the United States of America to continue to champion the ambitions, cultivate the talents, and develop the skills of future women leaders.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1555. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4920, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an exception to certain small business contracting requirements applicable to the Department of Veterans Affairs procurement of certain goods and services covered under the Ability One program, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1555. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4920, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an exception to certain small business contracting requirements applicable to the Department of Veterans Affairs procurement of certain goods and services covered under the Ability One program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act of 2020”.

##### SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES COVERED UNDER ABILITY ONE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 8127 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Except” and inserting “(1) Except”;

(2) by inserting “in paragraph (2) and” before “in subsections (b) and (c)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and except as provided by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, with respect to the procurement of a covered product or service, a contracting officer of the Department shall procure such product or service from a source designated under chapter 85 of title 41, and in accordance with the regulations prescribed under such chapter.

“(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), subparagraph (A) shall not apply in the case of a covered product or service for which a contract was—

“(I) awarded under paragraph (1) after December 22, 2006; and

“(II) in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act of 2020.

“(ii) Clause (i) shall cease to apply to a covered product or service described in such clause upon a determination of the Secretary that when the current contract for the covered product or service is terminated or expires there is no reasonable expectation that—

“(I) two or more small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans will submit offers as described in paragraph (1); and

“(II) the award can be made at a fair and reasonable price that offers best value to the United States.

“(C) In this paragraph, the term ‘covered product or service’ means—

“(i) a product or service that—

“(I) is included on the procurement list under section 8503(a) of title 41; and

“(II) was included on such procurement list on or before December 22, 2006; or

“(ii) a product or service that—

“(I) is a replacement for a product or service described under clause (i);

“(II) is essentially the same and meeting the same requirement as the product or service being replaced; and

“(III) a contracting officer determines meets the quality standards and delivery schedule of the Department.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended in each of subsections (b) and (c), by striking “For” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (d)(2), for”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a contract entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 10 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, March 12, 2020, at 10:10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, William Scott Hardy, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, John F. Heil III, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, David Cleveland Joseph, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Anna M. Manasco, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Drew B. Tipton, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, and Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Vincent F. DeMarco, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of New York, Department of Justice.

##### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 11:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nomination: James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 12 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

#### AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 87, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.