

Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3504. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend, until not earlier than September 30, 2021, the requirement that State-issued identification must be compliant with the REAL ID Act of 2005 to be accepted by Federal agencies for certain purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 3505. A bill to require private health insurance to rapidly cover preventive services and vaccines related to the coronavirus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 3506. A bill to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 3507. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to make testing for the coronavirus disease 19 available to all members of the Armed Forces deployed to an area in which the United States Central Command has responsibility; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3508. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide for disaster protection for workers' credit; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3509. A bill to provide borrowers the right to request forbearance on mortgage loan payments due to a declared disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 3510. A bill to transfer all border wall funding to the Department of Health and Human Services and USAID to combat coronavirus; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 3511. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for nutrition and supportive services for older Native Americans under the Older Americans Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3512. A bill to clarify the authority for regulating laboratory-developed testing procedures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3513. A bill to provide Americans with paid sick time and paid leave so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3514. A bill to ensure that facilities of the Indian Health Service, facilities operated by an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or inter-tribal consortium, and facilities operated by an urban Indian organization receive items from the strategic national stockpile and qualified pandemic or epidemic products directly from the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 545. A resolution commemorating March 17, 2020, as the 40th anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980, including the amendments made by that Act, at a time when the need for bipartisan support of the refugee resettlement program of the United States is critical to the survival of the program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2446

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2446, a bill to provide certain coverage of audiologist services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2661

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name and the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2661, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

S. 3486

At the request of Ms. SMITH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3486, a bill to improve State, local, and tribal public health security.

S. 3497

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3497, a bill to provide unemployment assistance to individuals affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. 3499

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3499, a bill to amend coverage requirements to ensure that no person incurs cost-sharing when receiving a test to confirm a COVID-19 infection.

S. 3503

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

3503, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 545—COMMEMORATING MARCH 17, 2020, AS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980, INCLUDING THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THAT ACT, AT A TIME WHEN THE NEED FOR BIPARTISAN SUPPORT OF THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES IS CRITICAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE PROGRAM

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

S. RES. 545

Whereas, after receiving bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Refugee Act of 1980, S. 643 (96th Congress), including the amendments made by that Act, was signed into law on March 17, 1980, to provide a domestic framework for the United States to align with the international obligations of the United States, including under—

(1) the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (as made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 U.S.T. 6223), to which the United States is a party);

(2) the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, to which the United States is a party;

(3) the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, done at New York September 28, 1954; and

(4) the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, done at New York August 30, 1961;

Whereas the humanitarian protection provided by the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212; 94 Stat. 102), including the amendments made by that Act, is consistent with the best values of the United States, such as judging people not "by the color of their skin but by the content of their character", championing religious liberty, standing up for one's beliefs, standing up for those who are being mistreated, championing democracy, and upholding the rights and practices of self-governance and free speech regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality;

Whereas refugees are courageous, hard-working people of conviction and values, defenders of democracy and faith, and people who face persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, and in some cases, face persecution because they allied with the United States in crucial missions, such as in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Iraq, and Afghanistan;

Whereas the refugee resettlement program of the United States authorized under the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212; 94 Stat. 102), including the amendments made

by that Act, is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts that—

- (1) strengthens global security;
- (2) advances the foreign policy goals and national security interests of the United States;
- (3) supports countries that host hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of refugees;
- (4) collaborates with and supports the efforts of the international community to support and resettle vulnerable populations;
- (5) stabilizes sensitive conflicts and regions around the globe; and
- (6) encourages other countries to contribute through humanitarian support, resettlement, and finding strategies to address existing conflict and prevent future conflict;

Whereas the refugee resettlement program provides protection and resettlement opportunities to individuals from Iraq and Afghanistan who worked side by side with members of the United States Armed Forces and peace builders;

Whereas the Department of State acknowledged the partnership between the admission of refugees and the protection of inherent human rights in the 2018 Report on International Religious Freedom and the 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices;

Whereas refugees are major contributors to local economies, pay an average of \$21,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits, and revitalize cities and towns by offsetting population decline and boosting economic growth throughout the United States by opening businesses, paying taxes, and buying homes;

Whereas several industries rely heavily on refugee workers to support the economic stability of those industries, and low rates of arrivals of refugees, especially in towns that rely on refugee populations to revitalize the industries in those towns, have had serious effects on economic growth;

Whereas, through the refugee resettlement program, the United States has proudly pursued strategic and humanitarian interests, resettling more than 3,000,000 refugees in 49 States over more than 40 years, and the program has received support from Republican and Democratic Presidential administrations and bipartisan congressional support, as Presidents have set, through Presidential

determinations, an average annual refugee admissions goal of 95,000 refugees;

Whereas, in collaboration with the Department of State and through the Office of Refugee Resettlement, faith communities, civic leaders, local social service agencies, employers, and refugee resettlement agencies provide essential services and welcome refugees who bring new life and vitality to local communities;

Whereas, in 2020, the world is in the midst of the worst global displacement crisis in history, with more than 70,800,000 forcibly displaced persons, including more than 25,900,000 refugees worldwide, more than ½ of whom are children, according to estimates from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas, in 2018, global resettlement needs were not met despite the high number of refugees in need of third-country resettlement;

Whereas a decline in refugee resettlements has had adverse impacts on the infrastructure of refugee resettlement in the United States, creating challenges for future increases in resettlement;

Whereas many Presidents have made changes and improvements to the refugee resettlement program while continuing to support and nurture its crucial role in humanitarian protection and in promoting the national security and strategic interests of the United States;

Whereas refugees are the most thoroughly vetted class of foreign nationals to enter the United States and are subject to extensive screening checks, including in-person interviews, biometric data checks, and multiple interagency checks; and

Whereas, as the major global humanitarian and strategic leader, the United States should operate its refugee resettlement program in a manner consistent with global refugee resettlement need, the historical commitment of the United States to refugee resettlement since the enactment of the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212; 94 Stat. 102), and the critical humanitarian leadership role of the United States on the world stage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its bipartisan commitment—

(A) to abide by the cherished domestic and international legal obligations of the United

States to protect refugees who flee war, persecution, or torture in search of religious liberty, democracy, peace, hope, and freedom; and

(B) to recognize the importance of the refugee resettlement program of the United States as a critical tool for saving lives and as a critical function of United States global leadership—

(i) to leverage foreign policy;

(ii) to strengthen national and regional security;

(iii) to support allies of the United States; and

(iv) to demonstrate international support of refugees; and

(2) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to provide robust funding for refugee protection overseas and resettlement in the United States;

(B) to uphold its international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance and protection of the most vulnerable populations;

(C) to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts and prevent new conflicts from beginning; and

(D) to ensure the refugee resettlement program of the United States is equipped to protect and support refugees, especially allies who need the support of the United States, as well as the international refugee assistance community that needs United States leadership, and local communities across the United States who want to welcome refugees and continue together to build the American dream.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:15 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 10 a.m.