

Through all of this, people continue to go to work and try to carry out their duties the best they can. In the Federal Government, there are National Institutes of Health researchers, Internal Revenue Service workers, Social Security staff, law enforcement officers, and others, working each day to provide government services to the American public. Some are not able to take leave because their job is a critical part of the response to the pandemic. Others are simply unable to take leave because they are limiting their exposure to the virus or are following state and local rules to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

To try and address this issue, on August 10, the Office of Personnel Management published an interim rule that recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic as an “exigency of the public business” and allows some federal employees to carry over use or lose leave. However, this policy is limited to employees who are designated as essential by their agency.

This contrasts with the Department of Defense which issued a memo on April 16, allowing all active-duty service members to accrue leave in excess of their 60-day limitation, regardless of job responsibilities or duty station. All Federal employees contribute to their agency’s mission, regardless of the job they hold. No one should lose earned annual leave due to this pandemic.

To resolve this inequity, I am introducing the Federal Worker Leave Fairness Act which will allow all Federal employees to carry over annual leave above the 240 hour cap, regardless of whether they are considered essential. My bill also resolves this issue for future pandemics declared a national public health emergency by allowing “use or lose” leave to be rolled over during the emergency declaration.

This legislation is being introduced in the House by Representatives DEREK KILMER and JENNIFER WEXTON and is supported by the National Treasury Employees Union; American Federation of Government Employees; Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers; National Federation of Federal Employees; Federal Managers Association; FAA Managers Association; National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association; and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

This bill is a small act of fairness in an otherwise stressful and overwhelming year. I urge my colleagues to support this bill in recognition of our hardworking federal workforce.

I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 727—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS “NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 727

Whereas ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths in women in the United States and accounts for more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system;

Whereas, in the United States, a woman’s lifetime risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer is about 1 in 78;

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates 21,750 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed in 2020 and 13,940 people will die from the disease nationwide;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is 46.5 percent, and survival rates vary greatly depending on the stage of diagnosis;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is over 90 percent for women diagnosed in early stages;

Whereas, while the mammogram can detect breast cancer and the Pap smear can detect cervical cancer, there is no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas, in June 2007, the first national consensus statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to provide consistency in describing symptoms and make it easier for women to learn and remember those symptoms;

Whereas too many people remain unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other vague symptoms that are often easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas improved awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by the public and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;

Whereas the lack of an early detection test for ovarian cancer, combined with its vague symptoms, mean that approximately 80 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, but approximately 20 percent of women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a hereditary predisposition to ovarian cancer, which places them at even higher risk;

Whereas scientists and physicians have uncovered changes in the BRCA genes that some women inherit from their parents, which may make those women 30 times more likely to develop ovarian cancer;

Whereas the family history of a woman has been found to play an important role in accurately assessing a woman’s risk of developing ovarian cancer, and medical experts believe that family history should be taken into consideration during the annual well-woman visit of any woman;

Whereas women who know that they are at high risk of ovarian cancer may undertake prophylactic measures to help reduce the risk of developing this disease;

Whereas guidelines issued by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO)

recommend that all individuals diagnosed with ovarian cancer receive genetic counseling and genetic testing regardless of their family history;

Whereas studies consistently show that compliance with such guidelines is alarmingly low, with recently published National Cancer Institute-funded research finding that in 2013 and 2014, only 1/3 of ovarian cancer survivors had undergone such testing;

Whereas, according to a 2016 consensus report by the National Academy of Medicine, “there remain surprising gaps in the fundamental knowledge about and understanding of ovarian cancer” across all aspects of the disease;

Whereas ongoing investments in ovarian cancer research and education and awareness efforts are critical to closing these gaps and improving survivorship for women with ovarian cancer;

Whereas, each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) and its community partners hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms; and

Whereas September 2020 should be designated as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month”; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 728—RECOGNIZING THE INSTRUMENTAL ROLE UNITED STATES GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY THE FEED THE FUTURE PROGRAM, HAVE PLAYED IN REDUCING GLOBAL POVERTY, BUILDING RESILIENCE AND TACKLING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AROUND THE WORLD, AND CALLING FOR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY IN THE FACE OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

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

S. RES. 728

Whereas food security and nutrition are fundamental to human development, particularly in the critical 1,000 day window until a child’s second birthday, and persistent hunger and malnutrition stunt children’s mental and physical development and hinder the health, prosperity, and security of societies;

Whereas food insecurity and malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries force tens of millions of people into poverty, contribute to political and social instability, and erode economic growth;

Whereas in its 2014 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the United States, the United States intelligence community reported that the “lack of adequate food will be a destabilizing factor in countries important to United States national security” and has since consistently linked global food insecurity to broader instability;

Whereas, despite decades of progress, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report for 2020 indicates that global hunger has increased since 2014, with 2,000,000,000 people worldwide currently experiencing food insecurity, of which nearly

750,000,000 people are facing severe food insecurity, and 10,000,000 more people having fallen into hunger between 2018 and 2019, 144,000,000 children stunted, and 47,000,000 children experiencing wasting;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed vulnerabilities in global food systems and food supply chains, and has severely exacerbated existing food security shocks, such as the Fall Army Worm and desert locust infestations in the Horn of Africa region, particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, as well as parts of Asia and the Middle East, which already represented an unprecedented threat to global food security and livelihoods;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic and its second-order impacts are expected to dramatically worsen the state of global food security and nutrition, with preliminary assessments predicting a doubling of severe hunger (from 135,000,000 to 265,000,000 people) and an increase in child wasting (from 47,000,000 to 52,000,000) by the end of 2020;

Whereas the United States has been a global leader in addressing food insecurity on a bipartisan basis and across Administrations, particularly in response to the global food price crisis in 2007–2008 and subsequent launch of the whole-of-government, United States Agency for International Development-led, Feed the Future program in 2010;

Whereas the late Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana was instrumental in advancing United States efforts to reduce global poverty through smart investments in agriculture and food security, including through his stewardship of the Global Food Security Acts of 2008 and 2009, support for the launch of the Feed the Future program in 2010, and continued advocacy to formally authorize the Feed the Future program through enactment of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–195) and the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–266);

Whereas the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–195), as enacted in 2016 and reauthorized in 2018, required the development and implementation of a comprehensive United States Government Global Food Security Strategy and codified the Feed the Future framework, strengthening its accountability and transparency mechanisms, deepening interagency engagement, and engaging a broad coalition of stakeholders, including faith-based and civil society organizations, universities and research institutions, the United States private sector, and United States farm and commodity organizations;

Whereas Feed the Future investments have helped transform countries' food systems and improve their own food security and nutrition, with investments currently focused in twelve target countries and 35 aligned countries and regions in Asia, Central America, and east, southern, and west Africa;

Whereas according to its most recent progress report, Feed the Future has helped more than 23,400,000 people lift themselves out of poverty, prevented 3,400,000 children from being stunted, and ensured that 5,200,000 families no longer suffer from hunger in areas where the program operates;

Whereas Feed the Future is making significant progress towards building local capacity and resilience by promoting inclusive economic growth, strengthening monitoring and evaluation, implementing sustainable agricultural practices, risk management, improving forecasting and adaptation, and building the agricultural capacity of rural communities;

Whereas Feed the Future also is advancing women's economic empowerment by providing targeted technical assistance to women working in agricultural systems and

equipping women with adequate tools, training, and technology for small-scale agriculture;

Whereas Feed the Future investments benefit communities in the United States as well, including by increasing United States trade and agricultural exports to Feed the Future countries by more than \$1,400,000,000 since inception; and

Whereas Feed the Future investments in international agricultural research and development through partnerships with United States universities and land-grant institutions, international research systems, such as the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, and other organizations will help the United States agricultural sector prepare for, adapt to, and remain resilient amid evolving threats; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports continued investment in United States global food security programs, and particularly through the Feed the Future program's comprehensive, multi-sectoral, transparent, data and results-driven approach toward reducing hunger, poverty, and malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries;

(2) recognizes the need to deepen and extend these efforts in order to achieve the global goal of ending hunger by 2030, particularly in the face of unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, political and social instability, high levels of human displacement, gender inequities, extreme natural shocks, and the increasing prevalence of invasive agricultural pests, such as desert locusts and the Fall Army Worm;

(3) supports United States Government efforts to focus on improving nutrition and health, building resilience, integrating water, sanitation, and hygiene and empowering women, youth, and smallholder farmers;

(4) calls on the United States Agency for International Development to—

(A) annually review the Feed the Future program and, as appropriate, expand the list of target countries, including those in fragile contexts;

(B) include information on all countries benefitting from direct Feed the Future investments, to include both focus and aligned countries, in annual reporting in order to further enhance the program's commitment to transparency and impact;

(C) develop a robust multi-sectoral learning agenda for maternal and child malnutrition and its causes, with a focus on the 1,000 day window until a child's second birthday;

(D) strongly amplify the critical role of women and smallholder farmers in enhancing food security and catalyzing agriculture-led economic growth; and

(E) advance the New Partnerships Initiative by promoting, building the capacity of, and entering into partnerships with locally-led organizations under the Feed the Future program;

(5) calls on the relevant Federal agencies identified under the United States Government Global Food Security Strategy, including the United States Departments of State, Agriculture, Commerce, and Treasury, and the United States Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the International Development Finance Corporation, the Peace Corps, the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the U.S. Africa Development Foundation, and the U.S. Geological Survey, to—

(A) continue to advance global food security as a United States foreign assistance priority, enhance inter-agency coordination under the Global Food Security Strategy, and align relevant programs with the Feed

the Future program's needs-based, multi-sectoral approach; and

(B) contribute to the development of an updated Global Food Security Strategy and a Global Food Security Research Strategy in 2021 to guide and inform Feed the Future activities between 2022 and 2026.

SENATE RESOLUTION 729—RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 729

Whereas December 14, 2020, marks the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and brought peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas ethnic cleansing and concentration camps were used as a tool of war against Bosnian Muslim men, women, and children, culminating in the July 1995 genocide at Srebrenica, where 8,000 Muslim men and teenagers were detained and killed;

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the United States initiated airstrikes against Bosnian Serbs to stop grave human rights abuses, which led to ceasefire negotiations and the peace accords;

Whereas negotiations began on November 1, 1995, in Dayton, Ohio, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, led by then-negotiator Richard Holbrooke and then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher, with Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Alija Izetbegović, President of the Republic of Serbia Slobodan Milošević, President of the Republic of Croatia Franjo Tuđman, European Union Special Representative Carl Bildt, First Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Igor Ivanov, and representatives from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy;

Whereas, after days of extensive discussions, a historic peace agreement was signed on December 14, 1995, to halt the conflict and bring peace to the region;

Whereas, despite seemingly insurmountable differences in opinions, the negotiations succeeded due to dedicated foreign service professionals, a common yearning for a peaceful resolution, and an outpouring of support from the global community;

Whereas the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also known as the Dayton Peace Accords, laid the groundwork for NATO and European Union (EU) stabilization missions over the past 25 years, which have allowed the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to live peacefully and prosper;

Whereas the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, established in 2006, remains the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States and recognizes the power of the written word to promote peace, and after the death of Ambassador Holbrooke in 2011, the Lifetime Achievement Award was renamed the Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award;

Whereas the peace negotiations were strongly supported by the City of Dayton, Ohio, its leaders, and community, creating strong relationships between all parties involved, including a sister city relationship with Sarajevo;

Whereas the United States Government reaffirms support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty and upholds the commitment to equality for all ethnicities according to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and