

Housing and Urban Development to establish a pilot program for public-private partnerships for disaster mitigation projects, and for other purposes.

S. 4799

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4799, a bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced abortions by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

S. 4805

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 4805, a bill to create a point of order against legislation modifying the number of Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States.

S.J. RES. 14

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 14, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of not more than 9 justices.

S.J. RES. 76

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 76, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of nine justices.

S. CON. RES. 49

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HAS-SAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator

from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 49, a concurrent resolution mandating procedures to ensure adequate precautions against COVID-19 in Senate buildings.

S. RES. 679

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 679, a resolution expressing appreciation and support for essential employees with disabilities or who are blind during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

S. RES. 680

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 680, a resolution condemning the People's Republic of China's use of military aggression to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control between India and China.

S. RES. 689

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 689, a resolution condemning the crackdown on peaceful protesters in Belarus and calling for the imposition of sanctions on responsible officials.

S. RES. 709

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 709, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the August 13, 2020, and September 11, 2020, announcements of the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates and the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain are historic achievements.

S. RES. 716

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 716, a resolution designating the week of October 5 through October 9, 2020, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week".

S. RES. 745

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 745, a resolution honoring the life, legacy, and example of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the 25th anniversary of his death.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. Kaine):

S. 4819. A bill to improve the health of minority individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, there is no shortage of examples showing how our Nation systemically fails communities of color and other minorities, but the events of 2020—namely COVID-19 and the killings of Black Americans—have brought heightened attention and urgency to addressing inequities and disparities throughout our nation. Tragically, these inequities and disparities pervade our health care system, resulting in poor health outcomes and barriers to care for far too many communities.

Mr. President, I believe that healthcare is a right—not a privilege—and that this right should extend to everyone in our Nation. Yet, this is not the case. Our Nation falls short in ensuring that right to everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, immigration status, or any other factor, which is why I am reintroducing the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA). This bill is a comprehensive blueprint of bold policy solutions that address a wide spectrum of health equity concerns.

Despite progress made through the Affordable Care Act, health care access remains a problem in the U.S., with minority communities disproportionately facing barriers to coverage. HEAA expands access to health care for many communities in need including immigrant communities, rural communities, and of particular importance to my state, citizens of the Free-ly Associated States who are living in our country under the Compacts of Free Association.

We know that diversity in our health care workforce can improve health outcomes, and yet racial and ethnic minorities remain underrepresented in our health professions. HEAA seeks to address the lack of diversity in our health workforce through loan repayment programs and health professions fellowships. The bill would also help providers better serve a diverse patient population with culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services through investments like cultural competency education and expanded language access services to assist the over 12 percent of Hawaii residents and about 8 percent of people nationwide with limited English proficiency.

Women, children, and adolescents often face additional barriers and disparities in accessing information, health education, health services, and coverage. HEAA aims to dismantle those barriers and address a range of infant, maternal, sexual, and reproductive health needs, particularly for

marginalized and underserved communities. For example, HEAA would invest in sexual health education for underserved, minority, and LGBTQ youth and link them to services related to positive health behaviors. The bill also seeks to address our country's tragically high maternal mortality rate, particularly for Black women, who have a maternal mortality rate three to five times that of White women. HEAA would expand services to pregnant and postpartum women, develop maternal health initiatives in rural areas, and establish a program to address implicit biases and cultural competency in providers.

HEAA doesn't stop there. The legislation would also expand and promote mental and behavioral health services for minority communities, increase Federal resources for diseases that disproportionately affect minorities—such as heart disease and diabetes in Native Hawaiians—and improve data collection and reporting so we can more completely recognize and address health disparities. In Hawaii, these investments through HEAA will help combat diseases like viral hepatitis, which disproportionately affects Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities, and better understand the health disparities faced by Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders through disaggregated data collection.

Finally, HEAA addresses the “social determinants of health”—non-medical factors like the environment, housing, education, and economic stability that ultimately affect individual and community health. HEAA would require non-health federal agencies like Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, and Environmental Protection Agency to work together to improve the social determinants of health.

Achieving health equity is achievable and to do it we must make bold, substantial investments in transforming our health and health care systems. I thank my colleagues for joining me in introducing the bill, and encourage others to join us as we work to level the playing field and empower everyone in our nation to achieve their full health potential.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 748—CONGRATULATING THE SEATTLE STORM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2020 WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 748

Whereas, on October 6, 2020, the Seattle Storm women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the “Seattle Storm”) won the 2020 Women's National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the “WNBA”) Championship;

Whereas the 2020 WNBA Championship is the fourth national championship that the Seattle Storm has won and the second national championship that the team has won in 3 years;

Whereas the Seattle Storm won the final game of the 2020 WBNA finals with the largest margin of victory in the history of the WNBA finals;

Whereas, during the 2020 WNBA playoffs, the Seattle Storm bested the Minnesota Lynx women's basketball team in the WNBA conference finals and beat the Las Vegas Aces women's basketball team in the WNBA finals;

Whereas the Seattle Storm led the 2020 WNBA season in points per game, assists per game, and three-pointers;

Whereas the players of the 2020 Seattle Storm championship team, including Sue Bird, Jordin Canada, Alysha Clark, Natasha Howard, Crystal Langhorne, Jewell Loyd, Ezi Magbegor, Epiphanny Price, Mercedes Russell, Breanna Stewart, Morgan Tuck, and Sami Whitcomb, exhibited extraordinary teamwork;

Whereas Breanna Stewart—

(1) received the WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player award for the second time in 2020, having received that award and the WNBA League Most Valuable Player award in 2018, and

(2) was named the 2020 WNBA Comeback Player of the Year after missing the 2019 season with a torn Achilles tendon;

Whereas Alysha Clark received the 2020 Defensive Player of the Year award;

Whereas Sue Bird—

(1) finished her 17th season in the WNBA with the Seattle Storm, having played in every WNBA Championship series game in which the Storm has participated;

(2) leads the WNBA with 2,888 career assists; and

(3) has played more WNBA games than other player in the history of the WNBA;

Whereas, during the 2020 WNBA season, the Seattle Storm was led by Head Coach Gary Kloppenburg and Assistant Coaches Ryan Webb and Noelle Quinn;

Whereas the players of the Seattle Storm were supported during the 2020 WNBA season by the dedicated operational and medical staff, including Talissa Rhea, Perry Huang, Emily Blurton, Caroline Durocher, Susan Borchardt, Dr. Michael Erickson, Dr. Jeff Cary, Abby Gordan, Dustin Williams, Erica Nash, Hunter Johnson, Mel Cable, and Brooke Tyler;

Whereas the owners of the Seattle Storm, Lisa Brummel, Dawn Trudeau, and Ginny Gilder, are 1 of just 2 all-female ownership groups in the WNBA;

Whereas the Seattle Storm has exhibited dedication to making a social impact by strengthening communities through the StormCares partnership, a partnership between the Seattle Storm and organizations in the greater Puget Sound region; and

Whereas the dedication and hard work of the Seattle Storm have inspired and empowered girls, boys, women, and men of all ages; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) the achievements of the players, coaches, fans, and staff of the Seattle Storm women's basketball team, whose dedication helped the team win the 2020 Women's National Basketball Association Championship;

(2) the State of Washington and the city of Seattle for their enthusiastic support of women's professional basketball; and

(3) the continuing progress toward ensuring equity in men's and women's professional sports.

SENATE RESOLUTION 749—DENOUNCING THE MADURO REGIME'S EFFORTS TO HOLD FRAUDULENT LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, THE ABSENCE OF ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS TO ENSURE FREE, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN VENEZUELA, AND THE FURTHER EROSION OF VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. KAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 749

Whereas the regime of Nicolás Maduro is undertaking efforts to hold fraudulent legislative elections for Venezuela's National Assembly in December 2020 that will not comply with international standards for free, fair, and transparent electoral processes;

Whereas the Maduro regime is seeking to use fraudulent legislative elections to undermine Venezuela's sitting democratically elected National Assembly;

Whereas, as codified under section 112 of the VERDAD Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 9702), it is the policy of the United States to recognize the democratically elected National Assembly of Venezuela, elected in December 2015 and sworn in on January 2016, as the only legitimate national legislative body in Venezuela;

Whereas the United States Government and members of the international community have rightly denounced the Maduro regime's efforts to hold fraudulent legislative elections in December 2020;

Whereas, on October 13, 2020, members of the Lima Group—including Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela—issued a joint declaration on the Maduro regime's efforts to hold legislative elections in December 2020 that expressed “firm rejection of the continuing of the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro in holding parliamentary elections without the minimum democratic guarantees and without the participation of all political forces”;

Whereas, on September 17, 2020, the International Contact Group on Venezuela—whose members include Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay—issued a joint declaration on the Maduro regime's efforts to hold legislative elections in December 2020 that stated that “conditions are not met, at the moment, for a transparent, inclusive, free and fair electoral process”;

Whereas, on June 12, 2020, the Maduro regime's illegitimate Supreme Court unilaterally appointed new members to Venezuela's National Electoral Council without the approval of the democratically elected National Assembly;

Whereas, throughout 2020, the Maduro regime—

(1) sought to coopt and undermine independent political parties through a campaign of systematic persecution; and