

Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4347, a bill to establish a Coronavirus Rapid Response Federal Labor-Management Task Force, and for other purposes.

S. 4375

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4375, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 4380

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4380, a bill to provide redress to the employees of Air America.

S. 4426

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4426, a bill to establish an Office of Subnational Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

S. 4572

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4572, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins, and for other purposes.

S. 4574

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 4574, a bill to establish a demonstration program to provide integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease, and for other purposes.

S. 4860

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4860, a bill to exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 4874

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4874, a bill to improve the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations' Visa Security Program, and for other purposes.

S. 4898

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4898, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the period during which States, Indian Tribes, and local governments may use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments.

S. RES. 760

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 760, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the atrocities perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China against Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and members of other Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region constitutes genocide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4914. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a grant program for transportation projects to improve Tribal health, well-being, and youth safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I today I am introducing legislation that aims to reduce traffic-related pedestrian fatalities in Native American communities while also improving public health and quality of life.

First, let's be clear. Everyone in this country deserves reliable options to travel safely from one place to another. Everyone deserves roads that connect us to each other and expand our horizons. But the sad truth is that not everyone in this country has safe, reliable roads that foster connections and expand horizons. That is especially true in Native American communities.

The adverse statistics surrounding the safety and health of Indigenous peoples are staggering. Vehicle-related unintentional injury is the No. 1 cause of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives aged 1 through 44. It is also the third overall cause of death for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, of any age or gender.

While unsafe roadways put lives at risk, inadequate or unreliable transportation options create obstacles for everyday life, making it more difficult to simply access healthy groceries, schools, quality health care, emergency services and economic opportunities. Immobility for individuals within Indian Country reinforces barriers to education, quality healthcare, and economic opportunity.

Meanwhile, Native American communities face disproportionately higher prevalence of diabetes and other heart disease. In fact, American Indian and Alaska Natives are more than twice more likely than non-Hispanic White Americans to die from diabetes. Cardiovascular disease is the primary cause of mortalities for Native Americans under the age of 65. While exercise can help to lower the risks associated with chronic heart disease, throughout Indian Country, there are few safe options for walking, running and bicycling.

The sad truth is that decades of Federal underinvestment in transportation infrastructure has contributed to disproportionately higher rates of road traffic fatalities and poor public health outcomes in Indian Country. Unsafe, unreliable and inadequate transportation infrastructure is exacerbating a public safety crisis, worsening public health, and degrading quality of life.

Investments in infrastructure that improve safety and expand opportunity for nonmotorized forms of transportation—such as sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, and pedestrian and bicycle signals—can help to prevent more road traffic fatalities and also combat the prevalence of chronic health disparities that exist throughout Native American communities. To that end, the Promoting Access to Tribal Health, Wellbeing and Youth Safety Act would create a new grant program at the U.S. Department of Transportation to dedicate new resources for pedestrian-related infrastructure and improve pedestrian infrastructure throughout Indian Country. The legislation will also authorize \$25 million annually for these critical projects.

By improving pedestrian infrastructure across Tribal communities, we can save lives while improving health outcomes and quality of life in Tribal communities.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator TESTER, Senator HEINRICH, and Senator WARREN, for joining me to introduce this legislation. As we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month, I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue. Together we can improve the safety and health of Indigenous peoples across the Nation.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4915. A bill to establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act. This legislation would formally establish the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative—or SVI—within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, DOJ. While the SVI was created in 2015 as an initiative within the DOJ, this legislation is needed to give the initiative authorization to protect the legal interests of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. I thank Representative ESCOBAR and Representative TAYLOR for introducing this important legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Our Nation owes a tremendous debt to our servicemembers, veterans, and military families for the sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms. Deployment can seriously compromise a servicemember's ability to meet obligations back home and protect their legal interests. Servicemembers and

their families have been charged unlawful lease termination fees when they receive permanent change of station or deployment orders. While deployed overseas, some have been denied voting rights, while others have had their property unlawfully sold. Members of the Reserve forces and the National Guard have been unjustly discriminated against and denied employment because of their military service. Servicemembers, veterans, and their families continue to be targeted by financial scams and fraud schemes. They deserve better than this, and we must ensure that our government protects their civil rights during deployment, transition back home, and as they settle into their civilian lives.

The DOJ recognized that, while there are laws on the books to protect servicemembers, veterans, and their families, more is needed to be done by the Federal Government to improve education about what those laws are and what rights they protect and to increase Federal enforcement actions to ensure those rights are protected. To that end, the DOJ announced the creation of the SVI to further its efforts to enforce statutes that protect the civil rights of servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The SVI works closely with the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Judge Advocate General offices at military installations to educate servicemembers, veterans, and military families about their rights and how to report abuse. It also serves as a resource for anyone looking to obtain legal assistance and legal practitioners seeking information.

Through the work of the SVI, the Department of Justice has brought a number of successful claims, including one against the city and county of Honolulu in February 2018 for illegally auctioning cars belonging to servicemembers. DOJ launched an investigation into the city's actions after receiving information from a military legal assistance officer and two Navy legal assistance attorneys that Honolulu had on at least three occasions failed to obtain court orders before auctioning cars belonging to servicemembers while those servicemembers were deployed aboard U.S. Navy ships. The city had violated the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, SCRA, by denying these servicemembers their right to obtain a court's review of whether the auction of their vehicles should be delayed or adjusted to account for their military service. The settlement that DOJ reached with Honolulu mandated that the city ensure servicemembers receive notice that their car has been taken into custody and that the city obtain a court order or SCRA waiver prior to auctioning a car owned by an Active Duty servicemember.

The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act recognizes the work this initiative has carried out on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, and mili-

tary families in Hawaii and across the Nation by making it permanent within the DOJ. This bill also tasks the initiative with serving as legal and policy advisor to the Attorney General, and liaison between the DOJ and military departments. The SVI is further tasked with coordinating prosecution of fraud that targets servicemembers and their families and enforcing Federal laws to protect servicemembers and veterans.

I call on my colleagues in the Senate to support the DOJ's efforts to defend the rights of those who protect our country by swiftly passing the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act during the 116th Congress.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 777—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE NEED FOR COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY AND AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 777

Whereas the public health emergency that the United States is currently facing has highlighted the need for common sense solutions to improve health care delivery and affordability;

Whereas Congress has acted quickly to protect health care for the people of the United States in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, including expanding access to telehealth, providing coverage for COVID-19 tests and vaccines, and supporting health care providers;

Whereas health insurance premiums increased by nearly 105 percent between 2013 and 2017, thereby making health care coverage both unaffordable and inaccessible for many people of the United States; and

Whereas nearly 134 rural hospitals have closed their doors since 2010 and the public health emergency has exacerbated the rural health crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that all people of the United States should have access to health care coverage with—

(1) protections if they have pre-existing medical conditions, including—

(A) guarantees that no citizen of the United States can be denied health insurance coverage as a result of a previous illness or health status;

(B) guarantees that no citizen of the United States can be charged a higher premium or cost sharing as a result of a previous illness or health status; and

(C) access to health care to ensure that the people of the United States with pre-existing medical conditions can afford to receive their care;

(2) lower costs of prescription drugs and devices, which can be accomplished by—

(A) cutting red tape in the regulatory process to bring new drugs and devices to market more rapidly;

(B) lowering prices through enhanced competition by reforming outdated and archaic patent and trademark laws;

(C) ensuring transparency in the drug supply chain;

(D) incentivizing domestic manufacturing and ending drug shortages; and

(E) promoting policies that ensure the people of the United States are not solely responsible for financing the biopharmaceutical innovation that the world depends on;

(3) lower insurance premiums through increased choice and competition, including through—

(A) the availability of transparent information related to the price of health insurance premiums and health care procedures so patients can make informed decisions about their care;

(B) access to association health plans, which have led to average premium decreases of up to 29 percent for small business owners;

(C) State flexibility to do what is best for communities in that State, which in some cases has lowered health insurance premiums up to 43 percent;

(D) the establishment of tax-free personal health management accounts to empower patients to afford and personalize their own health care arrangements; and

(E) expanded access to more doctors and specialists for veterans, those struggling with mental illness, and those who live in rural areas;

(4) protections from surprise medical bills, including holding a patient harmless from surprise medical bills and making sure patients receive bills in a timely way; and

(5) safeguards from costly defensive medicine in the health care system, that reflect medical malpractice reform that addresses the additional costs in the medical system that do not improve quality of care.

SENATE RESOLUTION 778—RECOGNIZING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS' DAY ON DECEMBER 15, 2020

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 778

Whereas school athletic programs develop young people physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally through the life lessons learned through participation and competition;

Whereas interscholastic athletic participation is an integral part of a student's educational experience and enhances the learning process;

Whereas athletic administrators are committed to developing and maintaining comprehensive education-based athletic programs which seek the highest development of all student athletes;

Whereas athletic administrators fulfill professional responsibilities with honesty, integrity, commitment to equity, and fairness;

Whereas athletic administrators preserve, enhance, and promote the educational values of athletics in our schools through professional growth in the areas of education, leadership, and service;

Whereas athletic administrators embody high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct and encourage coaching staffs, student-athletes, and community members to commit to these high standards as well;

Whereas during the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever, we need school leaders, including athletic administrators, who prepare, plan, and endeavor to secure student safety and well-being;