

emotional health and reduces the risk of substance misuse and suicide for teens and young adults;

Whereas the Jed Foundation, through the Satow's vision and commitment, works to equip all teens and young adults with the ability to navigate mental health challenges, to seek and give help, and to emotionally prepare them to enter adulthood and fulfill their potential; and

Whereas the Jed Foundation works to have mental health recognized as part of general health and wellness, and to reduce the shame, secrecy, or prejudice often associated with mental health: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the Jed Foundation;

(2) commends Donna and Phillip Satow for their vision, continued commitment, and leadership; and

(3) applauds the Jed Foundation for being a leading organization promoting the well-being of students, families, and schools and paving the way for more young people to find the resources and the support they need.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 789—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND TO PROTECT AND UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RULE OF LAW, AND RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 789

Whereas the Kingdom of Thailand and the United States of America first established relations in 1818 and entered into the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833, formalizing diplomatic relations;

Whereas Thailand was the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and remains a steadfast friend of the United States with shared values of democracy, rule of law, universal human rights, and a free market;

Whereas the United States and Thailand in 1954 signed the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (Manila Pact), pledging to "strengthen the fabric of peace and freedom and to uphold the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law";

Whereas, through the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations of 1966, along with a diverse and growing trading relationship, the United States and Thailand have developed strong economic ties;

Whereas the United States recognizes Thailand as a founding member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and host of the 35th ASEAN Summit in 2019, which reaffirmed that body's commitment to "a region of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress";

Whereas Thailand was designated a major non-NATO ally in 2003, and is one of the strongest security partners of the United States, a relationship that was recognized and expanded upon in the United States-Thailand Joint Vision Statement for the Thai-United States Defense Alliance in 2012;

Whereas the Governments of Thailand and the United States hold numerous joint military exercises, including Cobra Gold, the

largest annual multinational military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region, which is hosted by Thailand;

Whereas the Government of Thailand continues to be a partner on humanitarian and refugee assistance, including support from U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Air Field for multinational relief efforts following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and 2015 Nepal earthquake;

Whereas Thailand ended absolute monarchy and transitioned to a constitutional monarchy in 1932, and since then has revised its constitution seventeen times, including a 1997 constitution that enshrined democratically elected representatives in a bicameral national assembly and the prime minister as head of government, and a 2007 constitution that largely retained that structure;

Whereas cycles of coups and military rule have been a recurring feature of governance in Thailand for almost a century;

Whereas the Royal Thai military conducted a coup in 2014, abolished the 2007 constitution, declared martial law, and replaced the civilian government with a junta under the leadership of Army Commander Prayuth Chan-ocha;

Whereas the junta's National Council for Peace and Order drafted a new constitution which was promulgated in 2017, and served to erode Thailand's democracy and constitutional protection of rights;

Whereas, in March 2019, Thailand held elections that several independent monitoring groups declared as deeply flawed and heavily tilted to favor the military junta, whose party, headed by Prayuth, formed a new government with the support of the military-appointed and unelected Senate;

Whereas, in January 2020, the opposition political party Future Forward was dissolved and banned on order of the Constitutional Court following a flawed legal process premised on spurious charges;

Whereas the Government of Thailand has failed to properly investigate issues with respect to violent assaults against democracy activists and government critics within Thailand, as well as enforced disappearances and killings of exiled Thai political dissidents across Asia;

Whereas, since February 2020, tens of thousands of protesters across Thailand, largely students and youth, have peacefully called for democratically elected government, constitutional reform, and respect for human rights;

Whereas the Government of Thailand has responded to these peaceful protests with repressive measures, including intimidation tactics, surveillance, harassment, arrests, violence and imprisonment;

Whereas Prayuth declared a state of emergency on October 15, 2020, and characterized the growing pro-democracy protests as threats to national security and public safety;

Whereas more than 170 peaceful protesters have been arrested since February 2020, many of them charged with serious crimes, including sedition, that carry potentially long prison sentences; and

Whereas UNICEF has expressed concern about the potential harm that children face amidst the ongoing protests in Thailand and called on all parties to uphold children and young people's right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and to protect them from all forms of violence and intimidation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the strong relationship between the United States and Thailand based on shared democratic values and strategic interests;

(2) stands in solidarity with the people of Thailand in their quest for a democratically

elected government, political reforms, long-term peace, and respect for established international human rights standards;

(3) urges the Government of Thailand to protect and uphold democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, as well as immediately and unconditionally release political activists and refrain from harassing, intimidating, or persecuting those engaged in peaceful protests, with particular care for the rights and well-being of children and students;

(4) calls on the United States Government to support the right of the people of Thailand to peacefully and democratically determine their future; and

(5) unequivocally states that a military coup to resolve the current political crisis would be counterproductive and risk further undermining bilateral relations between the United States and Thailand.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 790—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION, ASSISTANCE, AND SOLUTIONS FOR VENEZUELAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

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

S. RES. 790

Whereas over 5,400,000 Venezuelans have been displaced across Latin America and the Caribbean—the world's second largest displacement crisis—and at least 7,000,000 people inside Venezuela are in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the country's ongoing political and economic crisis;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, given the country's weak health infrastructure, and posing particular risks for Venezuelan refugees and migrants such as eviction, loss of livelihoods, border closures and other travel restrictions, lack of access to health care for those without documentation, and gender-based violence;

Whereas it is well-recognized that displacement crises—

(1) exacerbate pre-existing violence against women and girls;

(2) interrupt children's education and increase their exposure to violence and exploitation;

(3) cause major stress and trauma on individuals and families that can have profound effects on mental health and result in significant needs for psychological and social support; and

(4) disrupt family and community connections that mitigate against such violence and trauma;

Whereas, between 2015 and 2016, maternal mortality rates in Venezuela increased by 65 percent and infant mortality within the first week of life increased by 53 percent, and the dire state of Venezuela's public health system has compelled women to flee the country in order to give birth;

Whereas one-third of Venezuelan households are food insecure, with the greatest risk of adverse nutritional impacts on children, pregnant and lactating women, and the elderly, according to the World Food Program;

Whereas the growing prevalence of criminal violence, especially intimate partner violence, and human trafficking, endemic corruption, and impunity in Venezuela has contributed to a significant increase in femicides;

Whereas Venezuelan women and girls report an increase in pregnancies of adolescent girls over the past 2 years, including many resulting from sexual violence and coercion;

Whereas indigenous women and girls in Venezuela's border communities face heightened risks of violence as a result of extreme poverty, discrimination, and the encroachment of extractive mining industries on their land;

Whereas women and girls fleeing Venezuela face grave threats of sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking by armed groups operating in border regions, such as the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), and these threats have grown since COVID-related border closures have forced asylum seekers into unofficial border crossing routes ("trochas");

Whereas the trafficking of Venezuelan women and children is linked to organized crime and armed groups, which often kidnap girls into trafficking networks in other countries and, in addition, forcibly recruit boys and young men;

Whereas, despite the generous policies of host countries, less than half of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children were attending school prior to COVID-related closures, because of lack of documentation to enroll, limited space in public schools, and lack of resources to pay fees;

Whereas governments throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have participated in a series of technical meetings to coordinate a regional strategy for the protection and regularization of Venezuelan refugees and migrants—known as the "Quito Process"—and issued a joint declaration in November 2019 that agreed to strengthen measures against human trafficking, gender-based violence, discrimination, and xenophobia, and to establish a regional protection protocol for refugee and migrant children and adolescents;

Whereas the United States has committed to strengthen international protection of women and children through the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, which aims to "promote the protection of women and girls' human rights; access to humanitarian assistance; and safety from violence, abuse, and exploitation around the world", as well as through the U.S. Government Strategy on Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity; and

Whereas the international community has prioritized addressing the issue of gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts by establishing a Safe from the Start initiative, implemented by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses grave concern for the massive and growing humanitarian needs of Venezuelans, including over 5,400,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with particular concern for the impact of the displacement crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic on women and children;

(2) recognizes the many communities across Latin America and the Caribbean that continue to generously receive and host Venezuelan refugees and migrants while also fighting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic;

(3) appreciates participation in the Quito Process by the Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, and encourages implementation of their commitments to strengthen national processes of documentation and registration and to bolster protections for Venezuelan refugees and migrants subject to gender-based violence, human trafficking, and xenophobia;

(4) encourages governments hosting Venezuelan refugees and migrants, as well as international and nongovernmental organizations providing assistance, to ensure that shelter, health care, food assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, and other basic services are accessible to women and children;

(5) calls on the international community, including both humanitarian and development actors, to focus greater attention and resources to address the violence, abuse, and exploitation suffered by Venezuelan women and children, including by disaggregating data by sex and age in needs assessments and program reporting; and

(6) supports increasing United States diplomatic initiatives and humanitarian assistance to strengthen protections for Venezuelan refugees and migrants and their host communities, with an emphasis on the protection of women and children.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 791—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2020 AS "NATIONAL COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH"

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 791

Whereas equality of opportunity for all people is one of the noblest aspirations of the United States;

Whereas data on the benefits of higher education demonstrate that, in spite of ongoing barriers to access and student success, colleges and universities can still provide pathways to economic opportunity;

Whereas the United States built a thriving middle class by funding colleges and universities to provide avenues to individual economic opportunity and shared economic growth;

Whereas higher education enhances the economic mobility of individuals, which is evidenced by—

(1) a finding by the Brookings Institute that the median lifetime earnings of holders of an associate degree are uniformly greater than the median lifetime earnings of holders of solely a high school diploma; and

(2) a finding by the Pew Economic Mobility Project that, for an individual born in the lowest income quintile, obtaining a 4-year degree or a higher degree is associated with—

(A) an approximately 70 percent difference in the probability of that individual earning an income outside the lowest income quintile; and

(B) a threefold difference in the probability of that individual going on to earn an income in the highest income quintile; Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that—

(1) the unemployment rate of high school graduates in 2019 who did not immediately matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester was 18.2 percent, which is significantly higher than the overall unemployment rate of the United States;

(2) approximately 34 percent of high school graduates in 2019 did not immediately matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester, which represents a decline from the prior year in the rate of immediate matriculation of new high school graduates to an institution of higher education;

(3) the decline described in paragraph (2) was most notable among African American

high school graduates, who faced a 20 percent decline from the prior year in immediate matriculation to an institution of higher education; and

(4) the unemployment rate of adults with a bachelor's degree and the unemployment rate of adults whose highest credential is a high school diploma differ by 20 percentage points, a gap that has grown larger as a result of COVID-19;

Whereas the National Student Clearinghouse reports that undergraduate enrollment in colleges and universities is declining precipitously in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for nontraditional students;

Whereas the complexity of financial aid systems and rising college costs can serve as additional deterrents or barriers for students and families as they assess the viability of higher education programs as a postsecondary option;

Whereas many students struggle to identify and compare postsecondary options due to—

(1) difficulties accessing school counseling services, which is evidenced by an estimation of the American School Counselor Association that the student-to-counselor ratio in the United States is 430 to 1;

(2) an absence of reliable programmatic and institutional outcome data; and

(3) a lack of comparable and understandable college financial aid offers;

Whereas, in addition to expanding outreach and support to recent high school graduates, colleges and universities must also expand outreach and support to all undergraduate students;

Whereas the Digest of Education Statistics for 2019 of the National Center for Education Statistics and the 2015–16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey found that, of undergraduate students in the United States—

(1) approximately 27 percent are older than 25 years of age;

(2) 38 percent are enrolled part-time;

(3) 24 percent are parents; and

(4) 86 percent live off-campus;

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics highlights that completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is one of the best predictors of immediate college enrollment, as high school seniors who complete the form are 84 percent more likely to begin postsecondary education in the fall following high school graduation;

Whereas applications for State-based financial aid are available in many States for students who do not qualify for Federal student aid; and

Whereas the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities, families, and educational systems across the United States underscores and reinforces the value of ensuring that all individuals, including students enrolled in high school and working adults—

(1) understand their postsecondary options;

(2) understand college financing opportunities; and

(3) have support to navigate the college application and financial aid processes; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2020 as "National College Application Month";

(2) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) evaluate options for pursuing higher education;

(B) submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or an appropriate application for State-based financial aid in order to receive college financing opportunities; and

(C) support every student, regardless of the background, age, or resources of the student,