

Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 172. A resolution declaring racism a public health crisis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 173. A resolution commending the actions of Cuban democracy and human rights activist Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia and the pro-democracy and human rights group, the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU), to uphold fundamental freedoms in Cuba and condemning Cuba's brutal authoritarian Communist regime; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 174. A resolution designating April 2021 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. Res. 175. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 176. A resolution urging all parties in Georgia to seek prompt implementation of the agreement signed on April 19, 2021, and reaffirming the support of the Senate for Georgia, the territorial integrity of Georgia, and the aspirations of Georgians to join the Euro-Atlantic community; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 177. A resolution designating April 2021 as "Financial Literacy Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 178. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of award-winning children's author Beverly Cleary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 179. A resolution to make temporary appointments to the Select Committee on Ethics; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Con. Res. 8. A concurrent resolution recognizing that the climate crisis is disproportionately affecting the health, economic opportunity, and fundamental rights of children, expressing the sense of Congress that renewed leadership by the United States is needed to address the climate crisis, and recognizing the need of the United States to develop a national, comprehensive, and science-based climate recovery plan to phase out fossil fuel emissions, protect and enhance natural sequestration, and put the United States on a path toward stabilizing the climate system; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 168, a bill to provide temporary licensing reciprocity for telehealth and interstate health care treatment.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 231

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 231, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

S. 306

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to establish a public health plan.

S. 444

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 444, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 617, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 657, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 659

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers under the age of 21, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 789, a bill to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians.

S. 792

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 792, a bill to amend the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to modify certain agricultural exemptions for hours of service requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 810

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 810, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam to include hypertension, and for other purposes.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the

Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 839, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 919

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 919, a bill to establish duties for online service providers with respect to end user data that such providers collect and use.

S. 926

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 926, a bill to plan, develop, and make recommendations to increase access to sexual assault examinations for survivors by holding hospitals accountable and supporting the providers that serve them.

S. 927

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 927, a bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1039

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1039, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation for disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1086, a bill to provide incentives for hate crime reporting, provide grants for State-run hate crime hotlines, and establish alternative sentencing for individuals convicted under the Matthew Shephard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1106, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 1123

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1123, a bill to preserve non-interference under the Medicare part D Prescription Drug Benefit program.

S. 1135

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1135, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the President to set a minimum annual goal for the number of refugees to be admitted, and for other purposes.

S. 1180

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1180, a bill to provide for the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1205

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1205, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds relating to rejoining the Joint Comprehensive Plan

of Action with Iran unless the President commits to submitting any successor agreement to the Senate for its advice and consent as a treaty.

S. 1238

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1238, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1251, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program to reduce barriers to entry for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in certain voluntary markets, and for other purposes.

S. 1255

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1255, a bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, to ensure that such Agency has the necessary supporting resources, particularly during economic downturns, and for other purposes.

S. 1279

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1279, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 50 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

S. RES. 97

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 97, a resolution calling on the Government of Ethiopia, the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and other belligerents to cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and cooperate with independent investigations of credible atrocity allegations pertaining to the conflict in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2021, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United

States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 1456

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1456 proposed to S. 937, a bill to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1456 proposed to S. 937, supra.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1456 proposed to S. 937, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1309. A bill to provide payments for home health services furnished via visual or audio telecommunications systems during an emergency period; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleagues Senator CARDIN, Senator MARSHALL, and Senator SHAHEEN, to introduce the Home Health Emergency Access to Telehealth (HEAT) Act. This bipartisan bill would help ensure that seniors who rely on home health care have the choice to receive these critical services through telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic and future public health emergencies.

COVID-19 is the greatest public health challenge since the flu pandemic of 1918 and has claimed the lives of more than 565,000 Americans. This public health emergency has underscored the need for older adults and other at-risk populations to have access to health care in the home setting. Home-based care is crucial to ensuring that this pandemic does not create devastating long-term health consequences due to delayed care. The highly skilled and compassionate care that home health agencies provide is an important component of this in-home care.

I have been a strong supporter of home care since my very first home visit, which took place in my hometown in Aroostook County early in my Senate service. This experience gave me the opportunity to meet and visit with home health patients, where I saw first-hand what a difference highly skilled and caring visiting nurses and other health care professionals make to the lives of patients and their families. I have been a passionate advocate for home care ever since.

Last year, my bipartisan home health legislation, the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act, became law as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security

(CARES) Act. This law, which I championed for 13 years, will improve the access Medicare beneficiaries have to home health care by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives to order home health services. Far too often seniors experience unnecessary delays in accessing home health care. To avoid these needless delays, it is common sense that other medical professionals who are familiar with a patient's case should be able to order these services.

Home health professionals have continued to provide face-to-face services during the COVID-19 public health emergency, but this crisis has created additional challenges, including the need to maintain an adequate supply of personal protective equipment to protect themselves, their patients, and their patients' families. The use of telehealth and virtual visits can help address these challenges. Unlike other Medicare providers, however, home health agencies are not eligible to receive Medicare reimbursement for telehealth services during the COVID-19 emergency.

Last May, I chaired Congress' first hearing examining COVID-19's devastating impact on seniors. During the hearing, Dr. Steven Landers, President and CEO of the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group, testified that, despite this lack of Medicare reimbursement, his organization has found telehealth to be an essential part of providing high quality home health care during the COVID-19 public health emergency. He urged action to ensure that home health providers can continue offering these critical services remotely.

Maine home health care providers have also shared their stories about how telehealth is helping them to continue caring for their patients during COVID-19. Through a combination of video visits and care calls, one provider has been able to care for a woman with severe heart and lung disease and keep this patient out of the hospital. The nurse would speak with the woman by phone a couple of times per week to assess any symptoms that needed follow up. If the nurse identified an issue during the call, she would schedule a video visit and also work with the patient's physician to modify medications as needed.

The bill we are introducing today would authorize Medicare reimbursement for home health services provided through telehealth during an emergency period. The services would not be reimbursed unless the beneficiary consents to receiving the services via telehealth. To ensure that the Medicare home health benefit does not become a telehealth-only benefit, Medicare reimbursement would only be provided if the telehealth services constitute no more than half of the billable visits made during the 30-day payment period. The Secretary of Health and Human Services would be required to

issue guidance on the authorization of and payment for home health services provided via telehealth.

Home health serves a vital role in helping our Nation's seniors avoid more costly hospital visits and nursing home stays. The COVID-19 emergency has further underscored the critical importance of home health services and highlighted how these agencies are able to use telehealth to provide skilled care to their patients. The Home Health Emergency Access to Telehealth (HEAT) Act would ensure that seniors in Maine and across the country retain access to remote home health services during the COVID-19 emergency and future public health emergencies.

Thank you, Mr. President.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1314. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1314

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. INCREASING EXCISE TAXES ON CIGARETTES AND ESTABLISHING EXCISE TAX EQUITY AMONG ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX RATES.

(a) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.—Section 5701(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "\$24.78" and inserting "\$49.56".

(b) TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO.—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "\$2.8311 cents" and inserting "\$49.56".

(c) TAX PARITY FOR SMOKELESS TOBACCO.—(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "\$1.51" and inserting "\$26.84";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "\$50.33 cents" and inserting "\$10.74"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SMOKELESS TOBACCO SOLD IN DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS.—On discrete single-use units, \$100.66 per thousand.”.

(2) Section 5702(m) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or chewing tobacco” and inserting “, chewing tobacco, or discrete single-use unit”;

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting “that is not a discrete single-use unit” before the period in each such paragraph; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNIT.—The term ‘discrete single-use unit’ means any product containing, made from, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that—

“(A) is not intended to be smoked; and

“(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, dissolvable strip, or other discrete single-use or single-dose unit.”.