

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4271. A bill to reauthorize the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by Senator MURKOWSKI in the introduction of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Reauthorization. As we know too well, rates of suicide have risen to epidemic levels in the United States. On average, there are 130 suicides every day, roughly one every 11 minutes, making it the 10th leading cause of death among all age groups and second among people ages 10 to 24. These are staggering statistics behind which there are stories of immeasurable loss.

After the tragic death of his son by suicide at the age of 22, our former colleague Senator Gordon Smith rallied support from Members across the aisle and in both Chambers to pass legislation focused on preventing suicide among children and young people. Since 2004, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act has provided critical resources for schools—from elementary school through college—to help at-risk youth. Funding under this program has supported hundreds of youth suicide prevention activities in all States, as well as providing grants to Tribes and tribal organizations, territories, and institutions of higher education in order to help them in their efforts to address mental health and prevent suicides among students.

The bill Senator MURKOWSKI and I are introducing today would increase the authorized grant level for proven programs and initiatives designed to address mental illness and reduce youth suicide. It will enable more schools to offer critical services and make needed improvements to help the Garrett Lee Smith programs better serve students.

Nationwide, suicide rates have skyrocketed over the last decade. In 2020, nearly 46,000 Americans lost their lives to suicide. That same year, there were 1.2 million suicide attempts. We must renew our efforts on suicide prevention and take a holistic approach. Despite the troubling national trend, Garrett Lee Smith programs are making a difference and have contributed to declines in the youth suicide rate in my home State of Rhode Island over the last decade.

Today, I am pleased to have the opportunity to partner with Senator MURKOWSKI in introducing the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act Reauthorization. This bill is part of suite of initiatives Congress can put in place to address mental health and suicide crisis among young people in our country. I look forward to working with Senator MURKOWSKI and advocates in Rhode Island and across the country to make a difference in addressing this epidemic.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4275. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the setting and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, this month, as we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we have an important opportunity to recognize the significant contributions Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander, AANHPI, individuals and communities have made to the development and enhancement of American life and culture.

Despite their noteworthy contributions in various spaces—including literature, the economy, politics and law, arts and science, and education—AANHPI individuals and communities have largely been excluded or erased from our shared history as Americans.

Look no further than our K–12 public schools. In many instances, the teaching of Asian Pacific American, APA, history has been limited to passing references or minor footnotes that barely scratch the surface of these diverse and resilient communities. When it comes to APA history, few milestones are discussed; furthermore, the uniqueness of these individuals and the communities in which they live is rarely highlighted. Oftentimes, AANHPI individuals are depicted as foreigners, as opposed to people who have lived in our country for generations. These narratives fuel xenophobia and racism that has resulted in a rise in attacks and hate-related incidents against AANHPI communities in recent years.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a time of celebration but also a reminder of the many challenges our communities have faced, including the Chinese Exclusion Act, Executive order 9066, which led to the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII, decades of racist laws, and the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes in recent years. Members of our AANHPI communities have long been the target of discriminatory treatment in this country, challenges we must continually work to overcome. That is why I am introducing the Teaching Asian Pacific American History Act for the 117th Congress.

In short, this legislation would promote the teaching of APA history in

our public schools. At a time when many are challenging what is taught in our Nation's schools, it is important that we work to ensure our K–12 curricula accurately reflect the breadth of our Nation's history. Many States are already working to make sure our students have opportunities to learn about the complex history of our AANHPI communities. The bill would ensure Federal resources, available through the U.S. Department of Education's American history and civics programs, highlight the important contributions of these communities. The goal of the legislation is to make sure our students have a better understanding of who we are as a people—not just some of us but all of us.

As we commemorate the history and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, and continue to work to combat the legacy of hatred, violence, and discrimination against our communities, this bill is a step toward ending the misguided perception of AANHPIs as outsiders or “others.” The Teaching Asian Pacific American History Act would enable K–12 teachers and students to better understand the racism and prejudice that AANHPIs have endured for decades and the many achievements and contributions of these communities.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4278. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase of certain firearms by individuals under 21 years of age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing legislation that would help ensure that an important safety provision in place for handguns will also apply to assault rifles.

Under current law, a firearms licensee may not sell or deliver a handgun to a buyer under the age of 21. However, this common-sense protection does not apply to assault rifle purchases. This loophole costs lives.

Earlier this week in Buffalo, we saw the effects of allowing a young adult under the age of 21 to legally buy assault weapons. Tragic events, like the massacre in Buffalo, have become far too common in our country.

Last year, our Nation suffered from nearly 700 mass shootings, and this year, our country has already seen more than 200 mass shootings. And it is still only May. On average, more than one mass shooting every day.

Congress must do something to stop these incidents.

According to Everytown, people aged 18 to 20 commit 18 percent of all gun homicides in the United States, despite being only 4 percent of the total U.S. population.

So it makes sense that laws on books restrict individuals under the age of 21

to purchase a handgun. But the law doesn't apply to assault rifles.

It is simple logic: If you can't buy a beer, you should not be able to buy an assault weapon.

I urge my Republican colleagues to consider supporting this commonsense legislation that has wide public support. A recent poll conducted by POLITICO showed that 88 percent of Democrats and 68 percent of Republicans support requiring people to be 21 or older to purchase a firearm.

The Age 21 Act is a first step in the right direction. It is time for Congress to show the American public that we are taking action on an issue that touches the lives of millions of people every year.

I thank Senators BLUMENTHAL, CASEY, and KLOBUCHAR for their support and urge the rest of my colleagues to support the bill as well.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4279. A bill to increase efficiency and conservation in public water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2022. This legislation would provide \$550 million for the Environmental Protection Agency to address water inefficiencies and losses in public water systems.

Leaking pipes waste an estimated 17 percent of water before a drop reaches a consumer's faucet. In my home State of California, 8 percent is wasted in a State that cannot afford any waste as we face the worst drought in 1,200 years.

Water efficiency is the most cost-effective way to ensure clean, affordable drinking water for communities across the country. Much like energy efficiency measures, improving water efficiency saves consumers money, reduces demand, decreases strain on water supply systems, and saves energy.

Yet Federal spending on energy efficiency and renewable energy has outpaced spending on water efficiency and water reuse by approximately 80 to 1 since 2000, resulting in millions of gallons wasted each year that could otherwise be saved or utilized.

The Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2022 creates a suite of options for States, municipalities, water systems, and Tribal nations to address water inefficiencies and losses in public water systems and to support leak reduction as one of the most cost-effective urban water management tools we have.

Achieving widespread water efficiency will require both inside-the-home and inside-the-system upgrades. Fixes at the individual building level can add up to make a big difference. The EPA estimates that installation of water-efficient fixtures and appliances can reduce water use 20 percent, saves money for consumers as well.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided a historic level of water infrastructure investment—including for Bureau of Reclamation States and for wastewater efficiency—but more investment is needed in the water systems that deliver drinking water to our homes and businesses across all States.

As the Western United States and much of the Southeast enter another year of historic drought, investing in resilient water supplies is an increasingly urgent priority for the States, water systems, and families facing rising water rates.

In a survey completed as part of a 2014 GAO report, 40 out of 50 State water managers expected water shortages in some portion of their State in the next decade. Improving water efficiency saves money, decreases strain on water supply systems, and saves energy.

I would like to thank my House colleague, Congressman MCNERNEY, for championing this effort with me, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2022 as we enter into the third year of this unprecedented, unrelenting drought.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 644—ESTABLISHING A WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS TO REAFFIRM LEGAL PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO WOMEN UNDER FEDERAL LAW

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 644

Whereas male and female individuals possess unique and immutable biological differences that manifest prior to birth and increase with age and puberty;

Whereas biological differences between the sexes mean that only females can get pregnant, give birth, and breastfeed children;

Whereas biological differences between the sexes mean that males are, on average, larger in size and possess greater body strength than females;

Whereas biological differences between the sexes can expose females to greater harm than males from specific forms of violence, including sexual violence;

Whereas women have achieved inspirational and significant accomplishments in education, athletics, and employment; and

Whereas recent misguided court rulings relating to the definition of "sex" have led to the endangerment of spaces and resources dedicated to women, thereby necessitating clarification of certain terms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate reaffirms that—
(1) for the purpose of Federal law, the "sex" of an individual means his or her biological sex (either male or female) at birth;

(2) for the purpose of Federal law, the terms "woman" and "girl" refer to human females, and the terms "man" and "boy" refer to human males;

(3) for the purpose of Federal law, the word "mother" means a parent of the female sex and "father" is defined as a parent of the male sex;

(4) there are important reasons to distinguish between the sexes with respect to athletics, prisons, domestic violence shelters, restrooms, and with respect to other areas, particularly where biology, safety, and privacy are implicated;

(5) policies and laws that distinguish between the sexes are subject to intermediate constitutional scrutiny and permitted when they serve an important governmental objective and are substantially related to achieving that objective; and

(6) for the purposes of complying with Federal laws that require State and local government agencies to collect or report data disaggregated by sex, such as Federal anti-discrimination laws, agencies are required to base such data on the biological sex of individuals at birth.

SENATE RESOLUTION 645—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. HALE-CUSANELLI

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 645

Whereas, in the case of United States v. Hale-Cusanelli, Cr. No. 21-37, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and from Nate Russell and Diego Torres, custodians of records in the Senate Recording Studio, a department of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and Nate Russell and Diego Torres, custodians of records in the Senate Recording Studio, are authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of United States v. Hale-Cusanelli, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Messrs. Schwager, Russell, and Torres, and any current or former officer or employee of their offices, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.