

NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 298, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 298) designating July 30, 2023, as "National Whistleblower Appreciation Day".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 298) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL TRAINING ACT OF 2023

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1096 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1096) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General of the Department, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Hassan substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 659), in the nature of a substitute, was considered and agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE TRAINING REGARDING OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require each employee of the

Department of Veterans Affairs who begins employment with the Department on or after the date of the enactment of this Act to receive training that the Inspector General of the Department shall develop on the reporting of wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and the duty of cooperating with the Office of Inspector General of the Department.

(b) TIMING OF TRAINING.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall require each employee of the Department covered under such subsection to undergo the training required by such subsection not later than one year after the date on which the employee begins employment with the Department.

(c) ELEMENTS.—Training developed and required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Definition of the role, responsibilities, and legal authority of the Inspector General of the Department and the duties of employees of the Department for engaging with the Office of Inspector General.

(2) Identification of Federal whistleblower protection rights, including the right to report fraud, waste, abuse, and other wrongdoing to Congress.

(3) Identification of the circumstances and mechanisms for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and other wrongdoing to the Inspector General, including making confidential complaints to the Inspector General.

(4) Identification of the prohibitions and remedies that help to protect employees of the Department from retaliation when reporting wrongdoing to the Inspector General.

(5) Recognition of opportunities to engage with staff of the Office of Inspector General to improve programs, operations, and services of the Department.

(6) Notification of the authority of the Inspector General to subpoena the attendance and testimony of witnesses, including former employees of the Department, as necessary to carry out the duties of the Office of Inspector General under section 312 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) DESIGN AND UPDATE.—The Inspector General of the Department shall design, and update as the Inspector General considers appropriate, the training developed and required by subsection (a).

(e) SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall provide, via the talent management system of the Department, or successor system, the training developed and required under subsection (a).

(f) RELATION TO CERTAIN TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that training developed and required under subsection (a) is separate and distinct from training provided under section 733 of title 38, United States Code.

(g) NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Inspector General is afforded the opportunity, not less frequently than twice each year and more frequently if the Inspector General considers appropriate under extraordinary circumstances, to use the electronic mail system of the Department to notify all authorized users of such system of the following:

(1) The roles and responsibilities of the employees of the Department when engaging with the Office of Inspector General.

(2) The availability of training provided under subsection (a).

(3) How to access training provided under subsection (a).

(4) Information about how to contact the Office of Inspector General, including a link to any website-based reporting form of the Office.

The bill (S. 1096), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO STRENGTHEN BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 101, S. 112.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 112) to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 112) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 112

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

SECTION 1. BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND CERTAIN OTHER VETERANS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1831 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) The term ‘covered child’ means a child who is eligible for health care and benefits under this chapter.

“(3) The term ‘covered veteran’ means an individual whose children are eligible for health care and benefits under this chapter.”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“§ 1835. Advisory council

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council on health care and benefits for covered children.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory council established under subsection (a) shall be composed of Federal employees.

“(c) DUTIES.—The advisory council established under subsection (a) shall solicit feedback from covered children and covered veterans on the health care and benefits provided under this chapter and communicate such feedback to the Secretary.

“§ 1836. Care and coordination teams

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish care and coordination teams for covered children.

“(b) OUTREACH.—A care and coordination team established under subsection (a) shall attempt to contact each covered child—

“(1) not less frequently than once every 180 days, to ensure the continued care of the child and assist with any changes in care needed due to a changed situation of the child; and

“(2) as soon as practicable after the identification of a condition listed in the report required by subsection (c).

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the

Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report setting forth a list of conditions that will trigger outreach to covered children under subsection (b)(2).

“§ 1837. Duration of health care and benefits provided

“The Secretary shall provide a covered child with health care and benefits under this chapter—

“(1) for the duration of the life of the child; and

“(2) notwithstanding any death of a parent of the child that precedes the death of the child.

“§ 1838. Biennial report

“Not less frequently than once every two years, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

“(1) The number of covered children receiving health care or benefits under this chapter as of the date on which the report is submitted.

“(2) The number of covered children for which the Department is paying for or providing a social worker as of such date.

“(3) Metrics on outreach conducted under section 1836(b) of this title.”.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health of the Department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding—

(1) to better assist covered children (as defined in section 1831 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a)); and

(2) to establish conditions to be included in the report required by section 1836(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the advisory council required under section 1835 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

(2) CARE AND COORDINATION TEAMS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the care and coordination teams required under section 1836 of such title, as added by subsection (b).

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

“1835. Advisory council.

“1836. Care and coordination teams.

“1837. Duration of health care and benefits provided.

“1838. Biennial report.”.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023, THROUGH TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 14, 2023; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, July 14, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bloomekatz nomination, postcloture; further, that all postcloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. and that, if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, Members should expect two rollcall votes beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before

the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the Senator from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:05 p.m., adjourned until Friday, July 14, 2023.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE PERMANENT GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 716:

To be major general

MAJ. GEN. SHAWN N. BRATTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SHAWN N. BRATTON

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 13, 2023:

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

KALPANA KOTAGAL, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2027.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN BLUM AND ENDING WITH JASON VEARA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 15, 2023.