

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing incidents constituted approximately 94 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2022;

Whereas, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; 135 Stat. 429), Congress provided \$3,000,000,000 during a 5-year period for the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program to help local communities construct highway-rail grade separation projects to eliminate crossings;

Whereas, in 2022, 50 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions and 64 percent of all fatal highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at gated highway-rail grade crossings;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 2,197 highway-grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2022, resulting in 274 deaths and another 812 individuals being injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver, the foremost nonprofit organization with respect to rail safety, administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and trespassing prevention;

Whereas, during Rail Safety Week, from September 18 through 24, 2023, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to take added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which resulted in the burning of 6 vinyl chloride tank cars and forced the evacuation of approximately 2,000 nearby residents, was a reminder of the risks posed by hazardous materials transportation;

Whereas preliminary 2022 Federal statistics indicate that—

(1) Class I freight railroads had the highest derailment rate in the past decade;

(2) the number of derailments per 1,000,000 miles traveled among Class I freight railroads has increased by 14 percent since 2012; and

(3) more than 43,000 rail workers have been injured and 135 rail workers have been killed on duty since 2012;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Mexico will concurrently observe Rail Safety Week; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing collisions, derailments, rail worker fatalities, and other railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Rail Safety Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week;

(B) efforts to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries;

(C) efforts by the Federal Railroad Administration to improve safety cultures at Class I freight railroads;

(D) efforts by the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, and the safety culture at Norfolk Southern;

(E) the residents of East Palestine, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and all other communities impacted by the derailment and release of hazardous materials on February 3, 2023;

(F) the brave actions of first responders who combat releases of hazardous materials across the United States, including the brave actions of the more than 300 firefighters

from 50 fire departments who responded to the February 3, 2023, derailment in East Palestine, Ohio; and

(G) rail workers who have died or been injured while working to keep people and goods moving throughout the United States and the families of those rail workers; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities;

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks; and

(C) to support efforts to improve the safe transportation of hazardous material by rail.

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—RECOGNIZING THE FORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN DEMOCRACY AND URGING THE UNITED STATES TO PURSUE DEEPER TIES WITH ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 357

Whereas, on September 22, 2021, Presidents Luis Abinader of the Dominican Republic, Laurentino Cortizo of the Republic of Panama, and Carlos Alvarado of the Republic of Costa Rica met in New York during the opening of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly to form the Alliance for Development in Democracy (referred to in this preamble as the “ADD”);

Whereas the member countries of the ADD have committed to work through the ADD to advance institutions that protect the rule of law and individual freedoms;

Whereas the ADD promotes regional integration by strengthening cultural, commercial, and demographic ties in the context of free, peaceful, and democratic societies;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of State have repeatedly emphasized that the economic encroachment of the Government of the People’s Republic of China into the Western Hemisphere is coercive and represents an acute threat to the national security of the United States and of allies of the United States in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, during the years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, United States trade has doubled with the Republic of Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama, and tripled with the Dominican Republic;

Whereas, combined, the three founding members of the ADD represent the third-largest trading partner of the United States in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, on December 10, 2021, the ADD formed a business council to promote the development of trade, investment, and commerce between the ADD and the United States;

Whereas, on June 10, 2022, Canada, a critical ally and strategic partner of the United States, and the members of the ADD issued a joint statement committing to working together to address democratic challenges and to prevent the erosion of democracy in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, the Republic of Ecuador formally joined the ADD as the fourth member of the ADD;

Whereas, on July 25, 2022, the United States and the founding members of the ADD signed a memorandum of understanding to advance the Consultative Dialogue on Supply Chains and Economic Growth between

the United States and the ADD to strengthen supply chain resiliency; and

Whereas the ADD has sought to comprehensively address the migratory flows that transit through territories within the jurisdiction of the member countries of the ADD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Panama, and the Republic of Costa Rica for forming the Alliance for Development in Democracy (referred to in this resolution as the “ADD”), and the Republic of Ecuador for ascending to the ADD;

(2) affirms that the ADD provides a counterweight to the growing influence of autocratic and anti-United States forces in the Western Hemisphere;

(3) calls on the President to—

(A) pursue and prioritize engagement with the ADD regarding the full spectrum of the national security and economic interests of the United States in the Western Hemisphere; and

(B) deepen regional integration on economic issues including increasing trade, expanding market access, and integrating investment markets throughout the Western Hemisphere, including by pursuing nearshoring, reshoring, and friendshoring initiatives; and

(4) calls on the President to use the diplomatic capital of the United States, including the voice and vote of the United States in international organizations, to support member countries of the ADD in promoting policies that—

(A) enhance the regional integration specified in paragraph (3)(B) by strengthening democratic institutions and promoting economic prosperity;

(B) strengthen the critical infrastructure of those countries, such as ports, airports, and other logistical assets to facilitate regional trade;

(C) manage migrant flows across the Western Hemisphere and within the jurisdiction of those countries;

(D) counter corruption, organized crime, and illegal drug trafficking across the Western Hemisphere and within the jurisdiction of those countries; and

(E) strengthen the resiliency of supply chains critical to foreign investment and trade with those countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 358—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH 23, 2023, AS NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 358

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that more than 43,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy, numeracy, and digital skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being and the national security of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit

from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is essential for economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of the parents of a child and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in the education of a child is a key predictor of the success of a child, and the level of parental involvement in the education of a child increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in the education of their children and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable and the success of children in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas addressing the education needs of adults needs to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older individuals in the United States lack the reading, numeracy, or English-language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers the lives of older individuals and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job, to continue their education, or to participate in job training and career development programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain work that provides a living wage;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills, and individuals without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy, numeracy, and digital skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a fully literate society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 359—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 359

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the week of September 17, 2023, to September 23, 2023, is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the week of September 17, 2023, to September 23, 2023, to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of

local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 360—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, AS “NATIONAL HAZING AWARENESS WEEK”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 360

Whereas hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against a student regardless of the willingness of that student to participate, in connection with membership in an organization, and causes or is likely to contribute to a substantial risk above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical training necessary for participation on an athletic team), of physical injury, mental harm, or personal degradation;

Whereas 55 percent of college students involved in extracurricular clubs, athletic teams, and organizations reported experiencing hazing;

Whereas a hazing prevention policy is vital to help shape expectations for safe campus communities where healthy group behaviors, ethical leadership, and feelings of positive well-being and belonging are fostered;

Whereas it is recommended that hazing prevention education is broad and includes students, campus staff, administrators, faculty, alumni, and beyond;

Whereas hundreds of students have died as a result of collegiate hazing, including Kristin High on September 9, 2002, Kenitha Saafir on September 9, 2002, Clay Warren on September 21, in 2002, Lynn Gordon “Gordie” Bailey on September 17, 2004, Matthew Carrington on February 2, 2005, Gary Louis DeVercelly, Jr. on March 30, 2007, Brett Griffin on November 8, 2008, Harrison Kowiak on November 18, 2008, Michael Anthony Smallwood Starks on November 21, 2008, Carson Leonard Starkey on December 2, 2008, George Desdunes on February 25, 2011, Robert Darnell Champion on November 19, 2011, David R. Bogenberger on November 2, 2012, Marvell Edmonson on April 20, 2013, Jauwan Holmes on April 20, 2013, Marquise Braham on March 14, 2014, Dalton Debrick on August 24, 2014, Tucker W. Hipps on September 22, 2014, Nolan M. Burch on November 13, 2014, Timothy J. Piazza on February 4, 2017, Max Gruver on September 14, 2017, Andrew Coffey on November 3, 2017, Nicky Cumberland on October 30, 2018, Collin Wiant on November 12, 2018, Noah Domingo on January 12, 2019, Bea Castro on March 17, 2019, Justin King on September 14, 2019, Antonio Tsalas on October 24, 2019, Samuel Martinez on November 12, 2019, Adam Jeffrey Oakes on February 27, 2021, and Stone Justin Pultz on March 7, 2021;

Whereas students have suffered severe, life-altering injuries as a result of collegiate