

magistrate judges to issue arrest warrants for certain criminal aliens.

S. 4039

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4039, a bill to establish the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Council, and for other purposes.

S. 4046

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4046, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 65, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter".

S. CON. RES. 24

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 24, a concurrent resolution condemning the hostilities in Sudan and standing with the people of Sudan in their calls for peace and their democratic aspirations.

S. RES. 559

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 559, a resolution recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support Forces and allied militia in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide.

AMENDMENT NO. 1706

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1706 proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1708

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1708 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1713

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1713 proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1718

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of

amendment No. 1718 proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1719

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1719 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1722

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1722 proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1722 proposed to H.R. 2882, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 1725

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1725 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1725 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 1732

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1732 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1733

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1733 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1734

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1734 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1735

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1735 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1740

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1740 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2882, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. REED, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4063. A bill to establish a State public option through Medicaid to provide Americans with the choice of a high-quality, low-cost health insurance plan; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, earlier this week, some Republicans—I think the Republican Study Committee, 170 House Members—released their plans for governing next year. Here are some of the things on their healthcare wish list: ending Medicare as we know it, which would drive up costs and threaten care for seniors; trying again—I think we are now on 50 attempts—to gut the Affordable Care Act, leaving tens of millions of Americans without coverage overnight and punishing people with preexisting conditions; and banning abortions, IVF, and contraception in every single State through bills "designed to advance the cause of life."

If budgets are statements of a party's value, then Republicans are making no secret of theirs: less access to quality healthcare and less control over their personal health.

And there is no reason not to take them at their word, other than that, if we take them at their word, you sort of sound like you are exaggerating. That is the problem. It is that what they are proposing is so outlandish, that it sounds like, you know, a Democrat and someone who wants my point of view to win the day. It sounds like I am exaggerating their point of view.

I actually had to read this stuff from the Republican study group, and they are way out of the mainstream—way out of the mainstream. Again, there is no reason not to take them at their word because, in Congress and in Statehouses across the country, Republicans say what they want to do, and then they do it. It doesn't matter how cruel these policies are, how unpopular their positions are. They have not been able to show any restraint whatsoever when it comes to enacting this extreme agenda.

And it is extreme. Millions of Americans are left to endure the disastrous consequences of this crusade every day. If Republicans have their way, millions of people will lose their healthcare. Seniors and people with preexisting conditions will be forced to pay outrageous out-of-pocket costs, just to get lifesaving procedures and medications. And young people will be kicked off of their parents' plan immediately. And women across the country will be forced to carry doomed pregnancies to term. Families trying to start a family

will have one less option, at least, with IVF not even available to them.

This is not what we should be fighting for. We have to work to get more people covered, because high-quality, low-cost healthcare should not be a luxury available to some, and, frankly—and I believe this—there is going to be a point where we don't fight about healthcare anymore. There is going to be a point at which Republicans realize that taking away people's healthcare, taking away people's autonomy as it relates to their own bodies, is just an electoral loser.

We are getting there on Obamacare. I thought we had kind of gotten there after multiple attempts to repeal it, but here they are again, trying to start that effort again.

Democrats are focusing on lowering premium and drug prescription costs so getting healthcare doesn't bankrupt people. And even the Republicans in Washington and across the country, as they try to control women by dismantling reproductive freedoms, Democrats are fighting to codify Roe into Federal law.

Democrats have done more than just give speeches about healthcare. We have actually delivered. It was 14 years ago that we passed the Affordable Care Act, which has since helped more than 40 million Americans get their coverage and has improved health outcomes for so many people: women, children, seniors, people with disabilities, people in rural communities.

And so it is no wonder that, more than a decade later, the ACA continues to grow in popularity and is setting new records every year for enrollment. Why? Because people actually like having healthcare. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, voters, not voters—everybody basically thinks that we should have a system that treats you humanely if you are sick.

But it hasn't stopped Republicans from trying again and again to repeal it, through Supreme Court cases, Executive orders, and legislation. They have failed every time.

Meanwhile, Democrats continue to build on the ACA's progress, including recently with the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan, because there are now tax credits and other measures in those bills that enable millions of Americans to save, on average, \$800 a year on premiums. And the number of uninsured is at an all-time low. The number of uninsured is at an all-time low, and the reason for that is legislation that fortunately passed. But we, unfortunately, did not have a single Republican vote for the Affordable Care Act, for the American Rescue Plan, or for the Inflation Reduction Act.

For the first time ever, people with Medicare are paying less for insulin, which is now capped at \$35, and saving money on a whole range of other prescription drugs. This is what progress looks like.

But there are still millions of Americans, especially in the middle class,

who don't get coverage through work but make too much to qualify for subsidies, and they deserve coverage too. The State Public Option Act, which I am reintroducing today with colleagues in the Senate and House, would help to bridge that gap. It helps to provide a public option to anyone who wants health insurance by allowing States to create a Medicaid buy-in program that is not based on income.

State public-option programs have shown to lower costs, increase consumers' choice in plans, and improve equity in coverage. Several States—including Maine, Minnesota, and New Mexico—are already exploring creating exactly this kind of buy-in approach. The State Public Option Act would help other States to follow suit.

The bottom line is this: Healthcare is a necessity and not a luxury, and it shouldn't be something the political parties argue about. In the richest country in human history, having it should not depend on your job or your economic status. It ought to be available, accessible, and affordable to everybody. The vast majority of Americans agree, but there is only one party today fighting to make it a reality.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4065. A bill to prohibit discrimination in health care and require the provision of equitable health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Equal Health Care for All Act, which appropriately frames healthcare discrimination as a civil rights issue.

Inequitable access to quality, affordable healthcare is the result of centuries of structural and systemic racism, all of which continues to result in poorer health outcomes in communities of color.

Black, Hispanic, and indigenous individuals are disproportionately more likely than their White counterparts to suffer from a range of illnesses, from asthma to heart disease to prostate cancer.

Inequitable outcomes are not exclusive to racial trends, however. Women are both diagnosed with and die from lung cancer at a higher rate than men, when comparing those who never smoked. And while rates of lung cancer have dropped, women fall behind while rates of cancer drop faster for men.

The Equal Health Care for All Act seeks to address structural inequities by establishing a legal definition of "inequitable health care" and creating a formal process to enforce the standard.

The bill would also establish a grant program to assist hospitals and other providers in implementing reforms to ensure equitable care and would establish a permanent Federal Health Equity Commission to study and make recommendations on health equity issues.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative ADAM SCHIFF, for his leadership in California and for leading on this issue in the House.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Equal Health Care for All Act as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 616—CONDEMNING THE TREATMENT OF DR. GUBAD IBADOGLU BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AZERBAIJAN AND URGING HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 616

Whereas Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu, a respected academic and economist, and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were arrested by Azerbaijani authorities on July 23, 2023, and severely beaten while in police custody;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu was dubiously accused by Azerbaijani authorities of multiple criminal acts without evidence;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu remains imprisoned at the Baku Detention Center in extremely poor conditions while awaiting trial;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu's health has deteriorated significantly since his initial arrest, and he has not received adequate medical treatment for his medical condition;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu has been repeatedly denied access to his legal counsel and a fair trial while in custody;

Whereas the Department of State and the United States Embassy in Baku, along with United States academic institutions and respected international organizations, have expressed deep concerns regarding Dr. Ibadoghlu's health and have demanded his immediate release;

Whereas Azerbaijan's ties with the community of democracies has been undermined by a troubling record of wrongfully detaining those involved in human rights, journalism, and peaceful freedom of expression, including Bakhtiyar Hajiyev, Avaz Zeynalli, and Elchin Sadigov;

Whereas the wrongful detention of Dr. Ibadoghlu is a serious affront to human rights and academic freedom: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns—

(A) the treatment of Dr. Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan;

(B) such government's practice of wrongful detention; and

(C) such government's suppression of academic freedom;

(2) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, including Dr. Ibadoghlu; and

(3) urges the Secretary of State to continue prioritizing Dr. Ibadoghlu's well-being and release in all engagements with the Government of Azerbaijan.