

President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4682. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Rates VA Pays for Special Modes of Transportation; Delay of Effective Date" (RIN2900-AS03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4683. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exceptions to Applying the Bilateral Factor in VA Disability Calculations" (RIN2900-AR51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4684. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments" (RIN2900-AR89) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4685. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Active Service Pay" (RIN2900-AP86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4686. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "85/15 Rule Calculations, Waiver Criteria, and Reports" (RIN2900-AR56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 23, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4687. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commemorative Plaques and Urns" (RIN2900-AR88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4688. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Outdated Regulations" (RIN0917-AA24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4689. A communication from the Administrative Specialist, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acquisition Regulations; Buy Indian Act; Procedures for Contracting" (RIN1090-AB21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4690. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FOIA Improvement Act" (Notice 2024-13); to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4691. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criminal Justice Reviews for the SBA Business Loan Programs, Disaster Loan Programs, and Surety Bond Guaranty Program" (RIN3245-AI03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2024; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-111. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children to cover the purchase of menstrual products; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the members of the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to expand the eligible uses of benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children to include the purchase of menstrual products to improve the access of persons with low incomes to such necessary products; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-112. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the federal government to address the issue of spouses of members of the military losing retirement benefits due to frequent relocations by creating a retirement plan that is funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, Historically, the State of Nevada has honored the sacrifices that members of the military and their families have made to protect our freedoms by providing veterans and members of the military certain benefits and rehabilitative services; and

Whereas, Nevada state law currently requires the Director of the Department of Veterans Services to assist veterans and those persons presently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States who are residents of the State of Nevada and their spouses, domestic partners, widows, widowers, children, dependents, administrators, executors and personal representatives; and

Whereas, According to the RAND National Defense Research Institute, research has found that spouses of members of the military have lower earnings and employment than comparable persons who are married to civilians and that relocating because of military service is associated with lower spousal earnings; and

Whereas, Permanently relocating because of a change of duty station has been shown by the RAND National Defense Research In-

stitute to reduce earnings of spouses of members of the military and may threaten the ability of such persons to support themselves financially in retirement; and

Whereas, A study by the RAND National Defense Research Institute suggests that programs designed to mitigate the adverse impacts on careers of spouses of members of the military associated with permanent relocation because of a change of duty station may have meaningful impacts on the financial well-being of families of members of the military by improving current earnings and the ability of members of the military and their spouses to support themselves financially in retirement; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Defense, through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, administers the military retirement system, which is a government-funded benefit system that includes monthly compensation for qualified retirees from the active duty and reserve forces of the military, disability benefits for those deemed medically unfit to serve and a survivor annuity program for the eligible survivors of deceased retirees; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Defense currently offers several programs to assist military spouses advance their careers and educational goals, such as the Military Spouse Employment Partnership and My Career Advancement Accounts, mainly through the Office of Military Community and Family Policy of the Department; and

Whereas, The Department of Defense Appropriations Act appropriates funding to the United States Department of Defense for military activities; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Defense does not currently have a plan or program that provides retirement benefits to spouses of members of the military; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature express support for the creation of a retirement plan to resolve the issue of the loss of retirement benefits for spouses of members of the military due to frequent relocations; and be it further

Resolved, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature urge the Federal Government to create and implement a retirement plan that addresses the loss of retirement benefits for spouses of members of the military due to frequent relocations that is funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the United States Secretary of the Department of Defense and the Governor of the State of Nevada; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-113. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact legislation establishing a Space National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 1004

Whereas, the space domain has been a critical part of defense and combat operations necessary for the continued security of the United States symbolized by strategic importance and the multifaceted value of space operations to both national security and technological advancement;

Whereas, Arizona is home to significant aerospace and defense industry contributions, with its citizens and economy benefiting greatly from the technological innovations and jobs these sectors provide; and

Whereas, establishing a Space National Guard would enhance the capabilities of the United States in space by offering a cost-effective, ready and innovative force that leverages the talent and resources of states like Arizona; and

Whereas, the collaboration between the United States Department of Defense, the United States Space Force and state National Guards would strengthen national security, foster international partnerships and ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of space domain operations; and

Whereas, the integration of National Guard space operations into a formal Space National Guard would optimize resources, ensuring every dollar invested yields significant returns in combat capability and technological advancement; and

Whereas, the Air National Guard's Space Operations have demonstrated unparalleled expertise, readiness and economic efficiency and have proved the vital role they play in the nation's defense and space exploration efforts; and

Whereas, the establishment of the Space National Guard would recognize and leverage the existing Infrastructure, talent and innovation present in states like Arizona and would foster a collaborative environment between federal and state entities to advance the nation's space objectives.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact legislation to immediately establish a Space National Guard to harness and expand the capabilities, readiness and economic efficiency of the Air National Guard's Space Operations, thereby ensuring that the United States maintains its competitive edge in space domain security and exploration.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-114. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to reevaluate proposed restrictions on the chemical industry; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL NO. 2001

Whereas, the State of Arizona recognizes the vital role played by the chemical industry in the economic development, national security and technological innovation of the United States; and

Whereas, the chemical industry is a cornerstone of our nation's economy, contributing over \$600 billion in economic impact, supporting more than half a million jobs and constituting 25% of the gross domestic product; and

Whereas, the chemical industry is instrumental in providing essential products and innovations that drive progress in areas such as housing, infrastructure, health care, telecommunications and clean energy solutions; and

Whereas, the success of the chemical industry is crucial to maintaining America's global competitiveness and achieving national priorities; and

Whereas, recent regulatory actions and proposed restrictions by the Biden Adminis-

tration and its agencies have raised concerns about the impact on the chemical industry's ability to innovate, create products and contribute to the nation's economic growth; and

Whereas, these new restrictions have the potential to limit access to and increase the cost of essential products, negatively impacting the United States economy, jeopardizing American competitiveness and delaying progress in industries with urgent and growing needs; and

Whereas, there are currently 13 proposed new restrictions with the potential to directly impact the chemical industry, ranging from outright bans on certain chemistries to regulations that may render manufacturing unviable or impossible; and

Whereas, these restrictions may have detrimental effects on the supply chains for vital technologies, including semiconductors, electric vehicles and modern health care applications; and

Whereas, the proposed restrictions contradict policy priorities set forth by laws such as the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the CHIPS and Science Act; and

Whereas, responsible regulation that prioritizes science, promotes innovation and supports supply chain resiliency is essential to achieving national goals.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the Members of the Legislature urge the President of the United States, federal agencies and the United States Congress to reevaluate proposed restrictions on the chemical industry and to ensure that regulations are based on sound science, promote innovation and support supply chain resiliency.

2. That the Members of the Legislature urge the President of the United States, federal agencies and the United States Congress to support frameworks that celebrate innovation and accelerate progress in the chemical industry.

3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the directors of relevant federal agencies and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-115. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging the United States Congress to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision was enacted in 1983 to equalize the earned Social Security benefits of workers who spend part of their careers in exempt public service and workers who spend their entire careers participating in Social Security; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision reduces the Social Security benefits of public servants who receive a pension for public service that was not subject to Social Security taxes; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision's flawed practical application diminishes nearly 150,000 Ohioans' retirement security and fails to recognize their rightfully earned Social Security and public pension benefits; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset reduces the Social Security spousal or survivor benefit paid to an individual's spouse who receives a government pension based on

the spouse's own public employment not covered by Social Security; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset reduces an individual's Social Security spousal or survivor benefit by two-thirds of the individual's own government pension, leaving many without adequate retirement income; and

Whereas, It is estimated that the Government Pension Offset affects and undermines the financial security of more than 100,000 Ohioans; and

Whereas, There are 1.7 million participants in Ohio's public retirement systems and over 450,000 beneficiaries and recipients; and

Whereas, Members of the 118th United States Congress have introduced legislation to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the Congress of the United States to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-116. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the federal Office of Management and Budget to update its Uniform Guidance in order to improve job creation, quality, and equity; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO.5

Whereas, Since 1988, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) established federal grant rules, now known as the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. Part 200), that have severely limited state and local governments from implementing substantive procurement standards that promote good jobs and equity; and

Whereas, State and local governments are prohibited from using local hire (hiring people from a specific geographic region) in federally funded procurements; and

Whereas, The Uniform Guidance has impeded the implementation of policies, including targeted hire provisions and project labor agreements;

Whereas, This language has hindered state and local governments efforts to put local or disadvantaged residents to work rebuilding infrastructure in their own communities; and

Whereas, No empirical evidence has been cited that shows local hire has an adverse impact on bid competition or cost; and

Whereas, The United States Congress itself has never prohibited local hire or targeted hire; and

Whereas, The 2015 Obama-Biden Administration's Local Labor Hiring Pilot Program allowed grant recipients to use local hire programs to successfully increase social, economic, and racial equity in their communities; and

Whereas, The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allowed for local hire to be used in transportation construction projects; and

Whereas, Local hire programs address the fundamental goal of having residents participate in infrastructure investments in their own towns and cities; and

Whereas, Targeted hire programs can also increase opportunities for workers of color, women, veterans, returning community

members, and others historically excluded from meaningful employment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the Office of Management and Budget to update its Uniform Guidance to explicitly allow states and localities to implement strong procurement standards that advance high-quality jobs and equitable hiring, including lifting the local hire prohibition on federally funded projects, and in so doing empower California lawmakers and agencies to create equitable infrastructure jobs that can strengthen our cities, counties, and state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, the federal Office of Management and Budget, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-117. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee urging the federal government to do all within its power to secure the border and protect our country; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 801

Whereas, recent events in Texas have demonstrated the federal government's disinclination to fulfill a duty imposed by the United States Constitution and federal statutory law, namely the protection of the several states from illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the security of our nation's borders and the safety of our citizens are paramount to protecting the American way of life; and

Whereas, due to the present administration's abrogation of its duty to secure the border, more than six million illegal immigrants have crossed our southern border in the last three years; and

Whereas, Article 1, §10, Clause 3, of the United States Constitution reserves to the states the right of self-defense, including the right to secure a state's border against an invasion; and

Whereas, the state of Texas has acted properly in declaring an invasion pursuant to such constitutional provision and invoking Texas's constitutional authority to defend and protect its citizens and sovereign property; and

Whereas, the Texas National Guard, Texas Department of Public Safety officers, and other qualified Texas personnel have been deployed to secure the Texas border; and

Whereas, federal government officials and agencies have since encroached upon Texas's constitutional right to protect against threats to the public safety; and

Whereas, the members of this General Assembly have consistently taken steps to address illegal immigration in Tennessee and support the state of Texas in doing likewise; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Thirteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, The Senate Concurring, that this General Assembly stands in support of the state of Texas's efforts to secure its border against illegal immigration and affirms the several states' constitutional right to protect and defend their citizens and property against any threat to public safety and security; and be it further

Resolved, that this General Assembly commends Governor Lee for previous support of securing the Texas border and urges him to send continued support; and be it further

Resolved, that this General Assembly urges the federal government to do all within its power to secure the border and protect our country; and be it further

Resolved, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the

United States, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, the Governor of the State of Tennessee, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation, and the Governor of Texas.

POM-118. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine requesting the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide access to medical care and assistance to members of the Maine National Guard who trained at the military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE PAPER 998

Whereas, Resolve 2023, chapter 95 established the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission; and

Whereas, the commission was tasked with studying the impacts of exposure to harmful chemicals, including 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, or TCDD, as well as other dioxins including that known as Agent Orange, on veterans who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada; and

Whereas, the commission has striven to demonstrate through scientific evidence the connection between exposure to those chemicals while training and subsequent negative health outcomes, but it is the responsibility of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to make this determination and provide care and assistance; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to tactical herbicides, including Agent Orange, suffered harmful effects and were subsequently diagnosed with conditions or illnesses associated with that exposure; and

Whereas, those who served at the Gagetown military support base include members of the United States National Guard, who were never deployed but were nevertheless exposed to these harmful chemicals, which are known to have been tested at Gagetown; and

Whereas, access to medical care and assistance through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is therefore unavailable for these National Guard members; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs recognize the effects of exposure to harmful chemicals, including TCDD and other dioxins, on members of the United States National Guard who trained at Gagetown and who are diagnosed with conditions or illnesses associated with that exposure as has already been done for Vietnam War veterans and others; and be it further

Resolved, That We further urge and request that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs review the most recent scientific reporting on the effects to human health of exposure to dioxins, to conduct independent environmental sampling and analysis at Gagetown related to dioxins and risks to human health, to examine health outcomes for individuals who trained there and to provide access to medical care and assistance for those individuals; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph Biden, President of the United States; the President of the United States Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States; the Honorable Denis Richard McDonough, Secretary of Vet-

erans Affairs; and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-119. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, calling for the end of the Gaza war and a lasting peace; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 4370. A bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 4371. A bill to amend the Investor Protection and Securities Reform Act of 2010 to provide grants to States for enhanced protection of senior investors and senior policyholders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 4372. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay costs associated with the delivery of automobiles or other conveyances to eligible persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4373. A bill to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 4374. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include screening for loneliness and coordination of supportive services and health care to address the negative health effects of loneliness, to require a report on loneliness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 4375. A bill to establish a critical supply chain resiliency and crisis response program in the Department of Commerce, and to secure American leadership in deploying emerging technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4376. A bill to increase Government accountability for administrative actions by reinvigorating administrative Pay-As-You-Go; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4377. A bill to require U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to facilitate naturalization services for noncitizen veterans who have been removed from the United States or are inadmissible; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HOVEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4378. A bill to require on-time delivery of periodicals to unlock additional rate authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.