

areas and helped inspire the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.);

Whereas Aldo Leopold, a Forest Service employee in New Mexico, worked to initiate a Federal wilderness concept in the backcountry of what is now the Gila National Forest;

Whereas Arthur Carhart, a Forest Service employee, argued that wilderness recreation would help to develop individual and national character;

Whereas the Apache and Mimbres people have been stewards of this land from time immemorial; and

Whereas, 100 years later, the character of the Gila Wilderness remains without permanent human-built structures, protected and managed to preserve this condition, and the wilderness remains a place unrestrained by human development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress commemorates the 100th anniversary of the designation of the Gila Wilderness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 709—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2024 AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. LUJÁN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 709

Whereas millions of people in the United States face mental health challenges and have unmet mental health needs;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental health disorders are chronic conditions, and, without proper diagnosis and treatment, children can face problems at home and in school, which can interfere with the future development of those children;

Whereas more resources should be dedicated in schools to the prevention, early detection, and treatment of mental health disorders in children;

Whereas childhood depression is more likely to persist into adulthood if it is left untreated;

Whereas it is important that the United States provides the necessary funding and resources to reach children and youth early on in life;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital technologies, such as social media;

Whereas there has been a great concern about the impact of social media on the mental health of children and youth;

Whereas social media exposes children to bullying, depression, anxiety, and self-harm;

Whereas there is a strong need to further understand and deter any negative impact of social media on children and youth;

Whereas disparities remain in access to mental health treatment for communities of color, with Asian, Native American, Hispanic, and Black individuals less likely to receive mental health care than their counterparts;

Whereas suicide is a significant public health issue that can have an enduring impact on individuals and their communities;

Whereas additional resources should be dedicated to the prevention of suicide in the United States;

Whereas veterans are more likely to experience mental health challenges than civilians;

Whereas it is important that the United States provides additional funding and resources to support veterans with mental health needs; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe May 2024 as “Mental Health Awareness Month”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2024 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” to remove the stigma associated with mental illness and place emphasis on scientific findings regarding mental health recovery;

(2) declares mental health a national priority;

(3) supports increasing access to mental health services;

(4) recognizes that mental well-being is equally as important as physical well-being for the citizens, communities, schools, businesses, and economy of the United States;

(5) applauds the coalescing of national, State, local, medical, and faith-based organizations in—

(A) working to promote public awareness of mental health; and

(B) providing critical information and support to individuals and families affected by mental illness; and

(6) encourages all individuals to draw on “Mental Health Awareness Month” as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate coverage and services, and support overall quality of life for those living with mental illness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 710—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 29, 2024, AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN AGRICULTURE DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND WORKFORCE AND TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 710

Whereas, according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture, 3,370,000 producers, less than 2 percent of the population of the United States, provide high-quality food, fuel, and fiber to the United States and abroad;

Whereas, according to the Economic Policy Institute, there are approximately 1,600,000 farmworkers in the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Rural Health Association, the rate of suicide among farmers is 3.5 times greater than among the general population;

Whereas, according to the Mortality-Linked National Health Interview Survey, suicide rates among farmworkers are 1.4 times higher than rates across all other occupations;

Whereas May is “National Mental Health Awareness Month”; and

Whereas the stigma surrounding mental and behavioral health persists and acknowledging this public health crisis and creating awareness is as important as ever: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 29, 2024, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness;

(2) recognizes the important role of individuals in agriculture as providers of high-quality products to the United States and the world;

(3) seeks to create awareness for the unique challenges agricultural producers and workers face, such as weather unpredictability, labor intensity and shortages, farm succession, and fluctuating commodity and market prices;

(4) highlights the resources available through the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) of the Department of Agriculture in connecting agricultural producers and workers to stress assistance programs; and

(5) encourages all to observe Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness for current and future agricultural producers and workers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 711—DESIGNATING MAY 2024 AS “AMERICAN STROKE MONTH”

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 711

Whereas quick identification and treatment for stroke results in a higher chance of survival and reduces recovery time for individuals experiencing a stroke;

Whereas treatment depends on the type of stroke someone is having, which must be diagnosed by a healthcare professional;

Whereas, when dealing with a time-sensitive medical emergency like a stroke, the right care, at the right time, at the right facility, is of the utmost importance;

Whereas a system of care allows for scientifically proven measures to be applied to every patient, every time;

Whereas, every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke;

Whereas stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability and the fifth-leading cause of death in the United States, causing more than 160,000 deaths each year;

Whereas nearly ½ of adults in the United States have high blood pressure, which is a leading cause and controllable risk factor for stroke;

Whereas the “F.A.S.T.” warning signs and symptoms of stroke include face drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulty, and time to call 911;

Whereas, during American Stroke Month in May, and year-round, the “Together to End Stroke” initiative of the American Stroke Association strives to teach people everywhere that stroke is largely preventable, treatable, and beatable; and

Whereas more research and education is needed to help prevent and treat stroke: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2024 as “American Stroke Month”;

(2) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the Government and people of the United States to fighting stroke—

(A) by promoting awareness about the causes, risks, and prevention of stroke;

(B) by supporting research on stroke; and

(C) by improving access to affordable, quality care to reduce long-term disability and mortality;

(3) commends the efforts of States, territories, and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses and other entities, and the people of the United States who support American Stroke Month; and

(4) encourages all individual in the United States to familiarize themselves with the risk factors associated with stroke, recognize the warning signs and symptoms, and on

first sign of a stroke, dial 911 immediately in order to begin to reduce the devastating effects of stroke on the population of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 712—DESIGNATING MAY 2024 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VANCE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 712

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately 1/3 of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, there were more than 59,248,361 individuals who were 65 years of age or older living in the United States and those individuals accounted for 17.7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas approximately 11,216 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2023, more than 8,402,856 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help older individuals in the United States maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs that promote social connection and improve the health and wellbeing of older individuals, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, which assist more than 10,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, as local aging network leaders, Area Agencies on Aging are critical partners in the healthy aging continuum;

Whereas, in 2023, an estimated 6,774,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement;

Whereas more than 143,000 older individuals serve as AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, helping communities by mentoring and tutoring children, providing independent living support and companionship to other older adults, addressing food insecurity, and more; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of older individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of older individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2024 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 713—DESIGNATING MAY 2024 AS “ALS AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 713

Whereas amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “ALS”) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord;

Whereas the life expectancy for an individual with ALS is between 2 and 5 years after the date on which the individual receives an ALS diagnosis;

Whereas ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic, gender, or socioeconomic boundaries;

Whereas ALS may affect any individual in any location;

Whereas the cause of ALS is unknown in up to 90 percent of cases;

Whereas approximately 10 percent of ALS cases have a strong known genetic driver;

Whereas, on average, the period between the date on which an individual first experiences symptoms of ALS and the date on which the individual is diagnosed with ALS is more than 1 year;

Whereas the onset of ALS often involves muscle weakness or stiffness, and the progression of ALS results in the further weakening, wasting, and paralysis of—

(1) the muscles of the limbs and trunk; and

(2) the muscles that control vital functions, such as speech, swallowing, and breathing;

Whereas ALS can strike individuals of any age, but it predominantly strikes adults;

Whereas it is estimated that tens of thousands of individuals in the United States have ALS at any given time;

Whereas, based on studies of the population of the United States, more than 5,000 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each year, and approximately 15 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each day;

Whereas every 90 minutes someone dies from ALS in the United States;

Whereas the majority of individuals with ALS die of respiratory failure;

Whereas, in the United States, military veterans are more likely to be diagnosed with ALS than individuals with no history of military service;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, there is no cure for ALS;

Whereas the spouses, children, and family members of individuals living with ALS provide support to those individuals with love, day-to-day care, and more; and

Whereas an individual with ALS, and the caregivers of such individual, can be required to bear significant costs for medical care, equipment, and home care services for the individual as the disease progresses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2024 as “ALS Awareness Month”; and

(2) affirms the dedication of the Senate to—

(A) ensuring individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this resolution as “ALS”) have access to effective treatments as soon as possible;

(B) identifying risk factors and causes of ALS to prevent new cases;

(C) empowering individuals with ALS to engage with the world in the way they want;

(D) acknowledging the physical, emotional, and financial burdens of living with ALS; and

(E) ensuring all individuals with ALS and their caregivers receive high quality services and supports that benefit them; and

(3) commends the dedication of the family members, friends, organizations, volunteers, researchers, and caregivers across the United States who are working to improve the quality and length of life of ALS patients and develop treatments and cures that reach patients as soon as possible.

SENATE RESOLUTION 714—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS BORN WITH CONGENITAL DISABILITIES OR MALFORMATIONS DUE TO THALIDOMIDE EXPOSURE

Mr. KENNEDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 714

Whereas July 14th, 2024, is “National Thalidomide Survivor Awareness Day”;

Whereas thalidomide is a sedative drug that was widely used in the late 1950s to treat nausea in pregnant women;

Whereas thalidomide treatment resulted in irreversible side effects among babies, including stillbirths and congenital disabilities or malformations;

Whereas such congenital disabilities or malformations include the shortening or absence of limbs, the malformation of hands and feet, sensory impairment, facial disfigurement, and damage to the brain, internal organs, and skeletal structure, among other disabilities;

Whereas an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 children worldwide died at birth or were born with congenital disabilities or malformations attributable to thalidomide exposure;

Whereas it is estimated that there are at least 20 survivors of thalidomide exposure in the State of Louisiana alone;

Whereas thalidomide survivors face unique hardships requiring many to rely on adapted vehicles, electronic wheelchairs, and prosthetic limbs;

Whereas the reliance on adaptive technologies imposes great financial burden on thalidomide survivors;