

S. 4075

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4075, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 4252

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4252, a bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to establish additional payments for unborn livestock under the livestock indemnity payment program.

S. 4255

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4255, a bill to modernize Federal firearms laws to account for advancements in technology and less-than-lethal weapons, and for other purposes.

S. 4275

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4275, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to inverted corporations.

S. 4322

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4322, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements relating to the designation of rural emergency hospitals.

S. 4374

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 4425

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4425, a bill to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, and for other purposes.

S. 4445

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr.

FETTERMAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4445, a bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.

S.J. RES. 79

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 79, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Retirement Security Rule: Definition of an Investment Advice Fiduciary".

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution relating to the establishment of a means for the Senate to provide advice and consent regarding the form of an international agreement relating to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

S. RES. 703

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 703, a resolution designating a day in May 2024, as "Disability Reproductive Equity Day".

S. RES. 712

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 712, a resolution des-

ignating May 2024 as "Older Americans Month".

S. RES. 717

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 717, a resolution calling on the Biden Administration to pursue censure of Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), refer the issue to the United Nations Security Council, and reaffirm that all measures will be taken to prevent the regime in Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 718—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD IMMEDIATELY PLACE A MORATORIUM ON ALL FEDERALLY FUNDED GAIN-OF-FUNCTION RESEARCH GIVEN THE INCREASED SAFETY CONCERNS

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 718

Whereas the Obama Administration defined gain-of-function studies as research that aims to increase the ability of infectious agents to cause disease by enhancing its pathogenicity or by increasing its transmissibility;

Whereas the Obama Administration, on October 17, 2014, mandated a Federal Government pause on new gain-of-function research, citing recent concerns regarding biosafety and biosecurity;

Whereas the Obama Administration, on October 17, 2014, stated that new Federal funding will not be released for gain-of-function research projects that may be reasonably anticipated to confer attributes to the influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome (referred to in this preamble as "MERS"), or severe acute respiratory syndrome (referred to in this preamble as "SARS") viruses such that such a virus would have enhanced pathogenicity or transmissibility in mammals via the respiratory route;

Whereas in the lead up to the Obama Administration pausing new gain-of-function research, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention noted an increase in accidents involving leaks, spills, or other releases of infectious material inside the laboratories receiving Federal funding;

Whereas the Cambridge Working Group, a consortium of some of the leading international researchers and scientists, released a 2014 open letter stating "experiments involving the creation of potential pandemic pathogens should be curtailed until there has been a quantitative, objective and credible assessment of the risks, potential benefits, and opportunities for risk mitigation, as well as comparison against safer experimental approaches.";

Whereas in 2014, after the Obama Administration mandated a pause on gain-of-function research, the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this preamble as

“NIH”), led by Francis Collins, including the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (referred to in this preamble as “NIAID”), led by Anthony Fauci, continued to authorize grants and research awards to organizations that study the spread of viruses from animals to humans;

Whereas some such awards went to EcoHealth Alliance and its President, Peter Daszak, who then disbursed research money to the Wuhan Institute of Virology (referred to in this preamble as the “WIV”) and East China Normal University;

Whereas experiments advanced by EcoHealth Alliance during the pause included, among other projects, combining genetic material from a “parent” coronavirus, known as WIV1, with other viruses;

Whereas the results of such experiments demonstrated varying pathogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 with different spike proteins in humanized mice;

Whereas a majority of scientists and researchers, including Dr. Lawrence Tabak and Dr. Ralph Baric, an EcoHealth Alliance collaborator and top coronavirus expert, when made aware of such experiment, admitted that EcoHealth Alliance’s coronavirus research appeared to meet the standard criteria for gain-of-function research;

Whereas NIH and NIAID continued to support EcoHealth Alliance and other organizations conducting gain-of-function research, according to the Obama Administration’s definition, through 2017, even though the pause remained in effect;

Whereas on July 7, 2016, NIAID identified possible gain-of-function research concerns in an experiment proposed by EcoHealth and conducted by the WIV;

Whereas in May 2021, Anthony Fauci conceded that during the period between 2014 and 2017 that “it is impossible to guarantee that researchers at the Wuhan Institute of Virology did not use American funds to perform gain-of-function research on coronaviruses.”;

Whereas Anthony Fauci and NIAID did not alert senior White House officials before lifting a ban on gain-of-function research in 2017;

Whereas in November 2019, 3 researchers from the WIV became sick enough to receive hospital care, and according to United States officials, those sick researchers were involved in coronavirus research;

Whereas the Chinese government deliberately delayed notifying the World Health Organization that it had detected SARS-like infections from an unknown, novel pathogen well before it sent official notification in December 2019;

Whereas on April 24, 2020, NIH instructed EcoHealth to terminate all funding to the WIV, and NIH terminated the WIV’s entire sub-grant award;

Whereas in July 2020, NIH, having procedurally erred in its April 2020 termination of EcoHealth’s grant, reinstated and then immediately suspended EcoHealth’s grant while requiring EcoHealth to meet certain conditions, such as obtaining a sample of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that the Wuhan lab used to determine its genetic sequence and arranging for an independent team to examine the Wuhan lab and determine whether it had possession of the SARS-CoV-2 virus prior to December 2019;

Whereas Peter Daszak reacted to those conditions by calling them “preposterous”;

Whereas based on tips from the scientific community that suspected EcoHealth’s science research at the WIV may have caused the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, NIH investigated EcoHealth’s compliance with its grant agreement terms, including the gain-of-function provisions in June 2016 and again

from April 2020 to April 2023 and concluded that EcoHealth was noncompliant;

Whereas in October 2021, NIH acknowledged to Congress that EcoHealth Alliance did not have access to laboratory notebooks or other records supporting its research, even though keeping such records was a requirement of the NIH grant;

Whereas although EcoHealth’s Year 5 Research Performance Progress Report for its research activities was due to NIH in September 2019, EcoHealth did not submit the report until August 3, 2021;

Whereas on October 20, 2021, it was revealed than an experiment in EcoHealth’s Year 5 Progress Report (for research between June 2018 and May 2019) exhibited virus growth greater than one log, thus constituting gain-of-function research, which should have triggered immediate suspension and reporting to NIAID according to contract agreements;

Whereas instead of EcoHealth taking either action, EcoHealth used language in its report that obfuscated the severity and timing of the gain-of-function experiments, which contradicted the Obama-era pause on gain-of-function research and the additional terms of agreement NIH added to EcoHealth’s grant in June 2016;

Whereas in October 2021, NIH updated the definition of gain-of-function research to focus more on enhanced pandemic potential pathogens (referred to in this preamble as “ePPP”), which meant that because the majority of gain-of-function research does not include ePPPs, once considered gain-of-function research now fell outside the scope of the stricter oversight required for ePPP studies;

Whereas NIH determined that no evidence existed to support the testimony Peter Daszak gave to Congress on November 14, 2023, that EcoHealth was prevented from submitting its Year 5 Research Performance Progress Report to NIH due to a technical problem in NIH’s system;

Whereas in April 2023, when NIH reinstated EcoHealth’s suspended grant and imposed new conditions, NIH stated that it was executing a corrective action plan to EcoHealth that satisfied NIH’s compliance efforts regarding gain-of-function research;

Whereas as part of the April 2023 reinstatement, EcoHealth pledged it would not perform work in, or with, Chinese-affiliated institutions;

Whereas the prime reasoning for EcoHealth’s reinstatement was EcoHealth’s representation to NIAID that EcoHealth had access to sequences and samples that were required to be supplied to the Federal Government as a condition of receiving Federal grants, which still needed analysis;

Whereas EcoHealth was not forthcoming and failed to disclose to NIAID that those samples were stored in China at the WIV, which was EcoHealth’s subcontractor that conducted the coronavirus gain-of-function research that could have caused the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas as of new guidance issued in May 2024, the Biden Administration removed avian influenza and current forms of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, from the category of pathogens of pandemic potential, thus excluding them from updated rules governing gain-of-function research;

Whereas effective May 14, 2024, the Department of Health and Human Services (referred to in this preamble as “HHS”) announced it would commence official debarment proceedings against EcoHealth Alliance and implement a government-wide suspension of United States taxpayer funds to include a hold on all active grants;

Whereas on May 21, 2024, HHS, in an effort to protect public interest, suspended and rec-

ommended debarment of Peter Daszak’s individual ability to receive any Federal funds;

Whereas both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Energy have assessed that the COVID-19 pandemic was a result of a lab leak from the WIV;

Whereas the majority members of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives (referred to in this preamble as the “Subcommittee”) reported that EcoHealth’s actions were often enabled by NIH and NIAID and the failures of NIH and NIAID to properly oversee EcoHealth’s research projects;

Whereas the majority members of the Subcommittee found that EcoHealth’s actions were often enabled by the lack of grant management and oversight by NIH and NIAID; and

Whereas the majority members of the Subcommittee believe that such NIH and NIAID grant management oversight failures necessitate both Congressional and Executive action to increase transparency and grantee oversight: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should immediately enact the Viral Gain-of-Function Research Moratorium Act (S. 81, 118th Congress, as introduced on January 25, 2023), which would—

(1) define gain-of-function research as any research that—

(A) could confer attributes to the influenza, Middle East respiratory syndrome, or severe acute respiratory syndrome viruses such that such a virus would have enhanced pathogenicity or transmissibility in any organism; or

(B) involves methods that could enhance potential pandemic pathogens or related risky research with potentially dangerous pathogens; and

(2) prohibit, notwithstanding any other provision of law, research grants supported by Federal funds from being awarded to institutions of higher education, or other research organizations, that are conducting gain-of-function research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 719—DESIGNATING JUNE 13, 2024, AS “NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY” , DESIGNATING EVERY THURSDAY AFTER NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY THROUGH THE LAST THURSDAY IN AUGUST 2024 AS “SEERSUCKER THURSDAY” , AND DESIGNATING JUNE 2024 AS “SEERSUCKER APPRECIATION MONTH”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 719

Whereas seersucker was introduced to the United States in the South in the middle of the 19th century;

Whereas seersucker suits were popularized in the United States in the early 1900s by New Orleans businessman Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas, as a lightweight, hard-wearing fabric, seersucker is mostly worn and enjoyed by the people of the United States during hot summer months;

Whereas former Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi brought Seersucker Thursday to Congress in 1996, and after the day went unobserved in 2012 and 2013, then-Representative Bill Cassidy, with the help of the late