

“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 consider 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

Senator Dianne Feinstein, revived the tradition in 2014;

Whereas the Senate will remember the late Senator Dianne Feinstein's historic service as she shall forever remain a part of this tradition, which Senator Raphael Warnock will continue in her stead;

Whereas the name "seersucker" originates from the Persian phrase "shir-o-shakar", meaning "milk and sugar", alluding to the alternating textures of the fabric;

Whereas the seersucker textile is made of cotton, linen, or silk (or combinations thereof), woven on a loom with threads at different tensions, creating alternating stripes of smooth and puckered textures that do not lay flat on one's skin, which is what makes the fabric so breathable;

Whereas cotton is an important crop that producers in the United States, including 3,500 family farms in Georgia, strive to cultivate in the highest quality; and

Whereas one of the 2 alternating stripes in seersucker is frequently in a color, typically blue, but sometimes gray, green, tan, red, pink, or another color, which, in combination with the white stripes, creates the iconic pattern so well known today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 13, 2024, as "National Seersucker Day";

(2) designates every Thursday after National Seersucker Day through the last Thursday in August 2024 as "Seersucker Thursday";

(3) designates June 2024 as "Seersucker Appreciation Month";

(4) recognizes the contributions of the hard-working people of the United States through the wearing of seersucker, the unique warm weather clothing known as the working person's uniform;

(5) encourages Senators to support the objective of National Seersucker Day and Seersucker Thursday;

(6) encourages local governments in the United States to build partnerships with local organizations and other members of the clothing industries and enthusiasts to promote the wearing of seersucker; and

(7) invites the people of the United States to don their warm weather finest on National Seersucker Day and every Seersucker Thursday.

SENATE RESOLUTION 720—CONGRATULATING TRINE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 720

Whereas, on March 16, 2024, the Trine University men's basketball team (referred to in this resolution as the "Thunder") won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III National Championship at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana;

Whereas, in its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance, Trine University was selected as an at-large team and subsequently hosted the first and second weekends of the tournament, culminating in its championship win;

Whereas Head Coach Brooks Miller has excelled during his 13 seasons with Trine University, having—

(1) been named the 2023–2024 Coach of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches;

(2) a coaching record of 226 wins to 116 losses;

(3) led the program to its first-ever NCAA tournament appearance; and

(4) led the program to its first-ever NCAA Division III National Championship after a season record of 29 wins to 4 losses;

Whereas Head Coach Brooks Miller has been supported by assistant coaches and staff;

Whereas senior guard Cortez Garland gave an outstanding performance and was selected as the Most Outstanding Player, having led the team with 22 points in the championship game, scoring 17 points in the second half;

Whereas, in the championship game, sophomore Nate Tucker scored 13 points, junior Aidan Smylie scored 12 points, junior Drew Moore scored 10 points, and senior Emmanuel Megnanglo pulled down a team-high of 8 rebounds, and the trio of Garland, Tucker, and Smylie were named to the All-Tournament Team; and

Whereas the contributions of the players, coaches, support staff, and the entire Trine University community were instrumental in achieving this historic victory and provide inspiration for future generations of young athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Trine University men's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III National Championship; and

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to Trine University's triumph.

SENATE RESOLUTION 721—CONGRATULATING THE GRACE COLLEGE LANCERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 721

Whereas, on March 23, 2024, the Grace College Lancers women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "Lancers") won the 2024 National Christian College Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as "NCCAA") Division I National Championship in Winona Lake, Indiana;

Whereas, junior Peyton Murphy was named to the all-tournament team for her performance in the 2024 NCCAA Division I tournament;

Whereas senior Maddie Ryman was named the tournament Most Outstanding Player;

Whereas head coach Dan Davis has excelled during his 6 seasons with the Lancers;

Whereas head coach Dan Davis has been aided by assistant coaches and staff;

Whereas the Lancers are supported by members of the Grace College Athletics Department;

Whereas the 2024 National Championship victory marked the first national title for the Lancers;

Whereas the Lancers emerged from the semi-finals with a dramatic and close victory over the Oakland City University Mighty Oaks;

Whereas the 2024 National Championship victory was the final game of the 15-year

span of the role of Grace College as host of the NCCAA Division I National Championship; and

Whereas the tradition of the Lancers of excelling in both athletics and academics continues to advance the sport of women's basketball and provide inspiration for future generations of young athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Grace College Lancers women's basketball team for its victory in the National Christian College Athletic Association Division I National Championship; and

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players and coaches of the Grace College Lancers women's basketball team, and students, alumni, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of Grace College in the National Christian College Athletic Association 2024 Division I National Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 722—EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION OF THE SENATE FOR THE ACTS OF HEROISM AND VALOR BY THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JUNE 6, 1944, AMPHIBIOUS LANDING AT NORMANDY, FRANCE, AND COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS FOR LEADERSHIP AND BRAVERY IN AN OPERATION THAT HELPED BRING AN END TO WORLD WAR II

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. ERNST, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTES MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 722

Whereas, June 6, 2024, marks the 80th anniversary of the Allied assault at Normandy, France, by troops of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Free France, known as "Operation Overlord";

Whereas, before Operation Overlord, the German Army still occupied France and the Nazi government still had access to the raw materials and industrial capacity of Western Europe;

Whereas the naval phase of the Allied assault at Normandy was code-named "Operation Neptune", and the date of June 6, 1944, is referred to as "D-Day" to denote the day on which the combat attack was initiated;