

made incredible strides in providing personalized, accessible, and effective genetic services since opening its doors in 1974.

Genetic medicine has transformed from a minor subspecialty to a driving force in revolutionizing medicine. Greenwood Genetic Center's research initiatives have not only significantly contributed to the understanding of genetic conditions, but have led to groundbreaking discoveries, helping transform the landscape of personalized medicine.

Today, it is my pleasure to recognize Greenwood Genetics Center and their dedication to advancing genetic research, education, and patient care. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we honor both the achievements of Greenwood Genetics Center but also the many lives they have touched along the way. Thank you to Greenwood Genetics Center for your profound contributions to genetic medicine and your enduring commitment to enhancing the lives of so many.●

RECOGNIZING THE INDIAN LAND MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor the Indian Land Middle School 7th grade volleyball team for winning the 2024 FMAC Championship. This achievement is not only a testament to their skills on the court, but a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and teamwork demonstrated throughout the season.

Despite the many challenges faced, this team continued to support one another and show remarkable resilience. Their ability to celebrate each other's successes, whether in times of victory or moments of adversity, has fostered an atmosphere of positivity and motivation that has created a lasting impact not only on their performance but also within their school community. Whether in practice or during games, each teammate played an important role in shaping the team's success.

As the team celebrates this incredible achievement, I encourage each player to reflect on their journey and take pride in what they have accomplished together. Whether some will return next season or move on to new challenges, the memories and friendships created will always remain. The skills and lessons learned this season will undoubtedly extend beyond the volleyball court and into all aspects of life.

Congratulations to the Indian Land Middle School 7th grade volleyball team on an outstanding season.●

HONORING TONY RAY GARRISON AND BRANDON RUPPE

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I rise to remember and honor the lives of two North Carolinians: Fairview, NC,

Volunteer Fire Department Battalion Chief Tony Ray "Bones" Garrison, and his nephew Brandon Ruppe.

When Hurricane Helene hit their community and caused historic, life-threatening flooding, Tony and his nephew Brandon selflessly worked to rescue others. During the rescue attempts, Tony and Brandon were tragically killed in a mudslide.

Tony was born and raised in Buncombe County and served his community as a battalion chief with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department and the Garren Creek Fire Department and as a member of the Buncombe County Task Force. A lifelong native of Buncombe County, Tony served his community with distinction throughout his years of service with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department. He was known for his humility, warmth, and, most of all, his deep love for his family. He is survived by his wife of 28 years Mary Garrison, daughter Hannah Sherie Garrison, son Dylan Garrison, and mother Martha Garrison, all of Fairview.

Brandon will be remembered for his huge heart and sense of humor. Brandon had a deep love for his family and many friends, and his relatives have said, "If you knew him, you knew it." He is survived by his mother and stepfather Annette and Ricky Branks; maternal grandmother Martha Garrison; and his brothers Christopher Branks, Cody Branks, Adam Ruppe, and Daniel Ruppe.

Brandon Ruppe and Tony Ray Garrison will forever be remembered in North Carolina for the tremendous sacrifice they made in saving the lives of others. Susan and I send our deepest condolences to their loving family, friends, and colleagues. May God Bless these fallen heroes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and four withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-180. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support a \$100,000,000 supplemental funding request to

address the ongoing impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire, to declare a national emergency due to those ongoing impacts, and to include in future federal budgets sufficient ongoing operational and maintenance funding for Navy North Hangar Fire remediation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, The United States Navy owns the site of former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, on which the North Hangar structure was located before a catastrophic fire that started on November 7, 2023; and

Whereas, The Navy North Hangar Fire burned for 24 days, deposited tons of debris, including toxic contaminants such as asbestos and lead from the Navy North Hangar, into a broad area of the community of Tustin, California, and affected over 1,500 homes and businesses, 29 schools, and 14,000 individuals; and

Whereas, The debris has been studied for exposure levels by an environmental health team that includes the South Coast Air Quality Management District, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Orange County Health Care Agency, United States Navy, Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, and University of California, Irvine, and that is determined to protect against significant public health risks; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin has proclaimed a state of local emergency since November 9, 2023, as a result of asbestos and lead debris contaminants deposited into the City of Tustin; and

Whereas, The Tustin Unified School District and its students were greatly impacted by school closures and disruptions due to threatening air quality conditions and the contamination impacts; and

Whereas, The Orange County Transportation Authority was impacted due to public concern for air quality; and

Whereas, The County of Orange, on November 9, 2023, proclaimed a local emergency due to the public health, environmental, and economic impacts of the pollution disaster; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin has contracted for emergency services to protect the public and environment in excess of \$80,000,000; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin is expending over 100 percent of its annual budget on this incident; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the United States Congress and President Joseph R. Biden to support a \$100,000,000 supplemental funding request to address the ongoing impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges President Joseph R. Biden to declare a national emergency due to the ongoing impacts to public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges President Joseph R. Biden and the United States Congress to include in future federal budgets sufficient ongoing operational and maintenance funding for Navy North Hangar Fire remediation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the

Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, to the Governor, to the Attorney General, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-181. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress to renew funding for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

Whereas, Millions of Americans, many of whom are low-wage earners or live in rural areas, are without access to broadband Internet services; and

Whereas, Broadband is critical to everyday activities such as work, school, and accessing healthcare; and

Whereas, Consequently, without access to broadband Internet services, individuals struggle to improve social outcomes through education, achieve upward economic mobility, gain digital literacy skills, and receive quality healthcare; and

Whereas, To close the digital divide, in 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and

Whereas, In addition, the program offers a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers, under specific circumstances, for eligible households; and

Whereas, Since its inception, the ACP has helped to expand broadband access to over 20 million households in the United States; and

Whereas, In New Jersey, as of January 2024, 335,079 households are enrolled in the ACP, which means that roughly one in 10 households in the State benefit from the program; and

Whereas, Since the ACP's launch in 2021, New Jersey alone has received nearly \$152 million in ACP funding, resulting in \$8.3 million per month in collective cost savings on broadband Internet services for all New Jersey households enrolled in the program; and

Whereas, However, the FCC announced that, without additional funding from Congress, the ACP is slated to expire in April 2024 when the program is scheduled to exhaust its \$14.2 billion budget; and

Whereas, To improve broadband access for millions of Americans, and thereby advance social, economic, and health outcomes for the underserved, Congress is respectfully urged to renew funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to renew funding for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-182. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the withdrawal of proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and urging meaningful engagement with tribes, local

governments, and affected communities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

Whereas 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976) redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000 acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

Whereas Alaska Natives have continuously inhabited the region that includes the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska for over 10,000 years; and

Whereas President Biden has signed multiple Executive Orders directing federal agencies to elevate and honor tribal self-determination and the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government; and

Whereas there are nine federally recognized tribes on the North Slope and five federally recognized tribes in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas federally recognized tribal governments have a nation-to-nation relationship with federal agencies; and

Whereas President Biden's Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) and Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships both require meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials and require tribal voices in policy deliberations that affect tribal communities; and

Whereas the federal government is directed to consult with Alaska Native corporations on the same basis as tribes, and Alaska Native corporations own land within and directly adjacent to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas North Slope municipal and tribal governments, Alaska Native corporations, and other Alaska Native organizations have requested the proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations restricting development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska be withdrawn pending meaningful tribal consultation, public meetings, and stakeholder engagement; and

Whereas President Biden has directed federal agencies to consider the potential benefit and harm of federal regulations, including in relation to wages and inequality; and

Whereas employment with Alaska Native corporations and their subsidiaries and high unionization rates in the energy industry directly contribute to better wages and lower rates of economic inequality; and

Whereas the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in the reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

Whereas state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Re-

serve in Alaska are allocated to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Impact Mitigation Fund, which is used to provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate impacts related to oil and gas development; and

Whereas resource development in the state has benefited rural communities by bringing family-supporting jobs and wages, increased educational opportunities, safe water and wastewater facilities, and expanded health care services to those communities; and

Whereas, because of resource development and associated revenue and infrastructure investments, compared with the national average, rural areas of the state experienced greater increases in life expectancy between 1980 and 2014 in locations where resource development activities, including oil and gas development, mining, and fisheries operations, have occurred; and

Whereas continued development of the state's renewable and oil and gas resources with rapidly advancing carbon sequestration deployment ensures that the state can meet its own energy needs and contribute to national security and global decarbonization goals; Now be it

Resolved, The Alaska State Legislature recognizes the authority of a legislative body and further recognizes that regulations are not intended to usurp codified law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature affirms the importance of consultation among the federal government, tribal governments, local governments, and Alaska Native corporations regarding proposed federal regulations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature concurs with local tribal governments and indigenous stakeholders that consultation regarding the proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska was insufficient given the potential economic impact of withdrawal of land from development and effects on the ability of tribal and local governments to fund basic infrastructure with property tax revenue; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges withdrawal of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed rule to adopt regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, as proposed in September 2023, asserting that the proposal (1) lacks the benefit of consultation; (2) does not align with the congressionally adopted policy of oil and gas production, subject to reasonable mitigation measures, as reflected in 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976); and (3) does not serve the public interest; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations consider the full economic impact of resource development, including jobs within the region and throughout the state, funding for apprenticeship and other workforce development programs, employment of Alaska Native corporation shareholders and tribal members, and effects on wages for working class Alaskans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations by the federal Bureau of Land Management align with the congressionally adopted policy of oil and gas production, subject to reasonable mitigation measures, as reflected in 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976); and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations by the federal Bureau of Land Management consider the role of energy production in advancing national security and energy independence for the United States and its allies.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-183. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland urging the federal government to publish, without delay, the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and urging the United States Congress to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, in 1972, the 92nd Congress of the United States, at its second session, in both houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, adopted the following proposition to amend the U.S. Constitution:

“Joint Resolution Resolved by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress Assembled (Two-Thirds of Each House Concurring Therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”; and

Whereas, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides a two-step procedure for the adoption of an amendment; and

Whereas, The first requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is the proposal of an amendment either by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by application of two-thirds of the states; and

Whereas, The second requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is ratification of an amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, The U.S. Constitution does not limit the time for states to ratify an amendment and does not grant Congress the authority to unilaterally limit the time by which an amendment may be ratified; and

Whereas, A time limitation for the ratification of amendments by the states would be a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, To have full force and effect, a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution must be within the text of an amendment so that it may be ratified by the states as part of the requirements of Article V; and

Whereas, The time limitation on state ratifications was in the preamble section of the resolution by Congress and not within the text of the amendment presented to states for state approval; and

Whereas, Because of the placement of the time limitation, the states ratified the text of the Equal Rights Amendment but did not ratify the time limit by Congress; and

Whereas, A time limit was approved in the Equal Rights Amendment by Congress in 1972, but has not been subsequently approved by the states and thus is without force or effect; and

Whereas, in comparison, in 1978, Congress passed the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, which included a time limitation within the text of the Amendment offered to the states for ratification; and

Whereas, The time limitation for the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment ended before ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, Because the time limit was within the text of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the time limit had full force and effect and the amendment expired in 1985; and

Whereas, In comparison, the Twenty-first Amendment and the Twenty-second Amendment include time limitations within the text of each amendment, and the timelines were ratified by three-fourths of the states in accordance with the text of the amendments; and

Whereas, in 1789, the First Congress proposed, in accordance with Article V, the Madison Amendment relating to compensation of members of Congress; and

Whereas, Over 202 years later, the Madison Amendment was ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, In 1992, having finally met the requirements of Article V, the Madison Amendment was published as the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by the Archivist of the United States during the Administration of President George H.W. Bush; and

Whereas, Following publication of the Madison Amendment by the Archivist of the United States, Congress affirmed the Madison Amendment as the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, As of January 27, 2020, three-fourths of the states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Unlike the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment does not contain a time limit in its text where it would be of full force and effect; and

Whereas, In contrast to the Madison Amendment, which took 203 years to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment took only 48 years to ratify; and

Whereas, The text of Article V of the U.S. Constitution grants the states the power of ratification, not rescission; and

Whereas, Samuel Johnson's dictionary of 1755 defines “ratify” as “to confirm; to settle”; and

Whereas, Bouvier's Law Dictionary of 1856, considered to be the first American legal dictionary, states that a ratification once done, “cannot be revoked or recalled”; and

Whereas, James Madison wrote in a July 20, 1788, letter to Alexander Hamilton that ratification is “in toto and for ever”; and

Whereas, Various attempts to rescind ratifications of provisions of the U.S. Constitution or its amendments, including the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments, have never been honored; and

Whereas, The General Assembly of Maryland set a precedent for this resolution in 1961 by passing House Joint Resolution 14 urging Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Maryland was one of the early states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in May 1972, two months after Congress proposed it for ratification; and

Whereas, Maryland adopted the Maryland Equal Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution in 1972; and

Whereas, The Maryland Equal Rights Amendment is only effective to the degree that it does not conflict with federal law; and

Whereas, The Maryland Attorney General filed an amicus brief in 2022 in support of a lawsuit brought by three ratifying states to require the Archivist of the United States to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, Over several decades, the General Assembly of Maryland has passed laws and created protections attempting to guarantee equal rights under the law for all Marylanders, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex—which includes legal equality and protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and decisions regarding reproductive healthcare or other aspects of an individual's bodily autonomy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it is the opinion of the General Assembly of Maryland that the Equal Rights Amendment meets the requirements of Article V of the U.S. Constitution and should be recognized as the 28th Amendment; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden to publish, without delay, the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Congress of the United States to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland calls on other states to join in this action by passing similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Colleen Joy Shogan, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408; the Maryland Congressional Delegation; and the presiding officer of each House of the legislature of each state of the United States, with the request that it be circulated among leadership of the legislative branch of the state governments.

POM-184. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire reaffirming support for the child labor amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, widespread child labor was common in the 1800's and into the early 1900's; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court ruled in 1918 in *Hammer v. Dagenhart* that Congress did not possess the authority to regulate child labor prompting the writing of the Child Labor Amendment; and

Whereas, the Child Labor Amendment authorizes Congress “to limit, regulate, and

prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age' and recognizes state legislatures sharing that authority with Congress; and

Whereas, the Child Labor Amendment was passed by Congress in 1924 and sent to the states for ratification, and the New Hampshire legislature ratified it in 1933; and

Whereas, no state has ratified the Child Labor Amendment since 1937 and in 1941 the United States Supreme Court overturned *Hammer v. Dagenhart* in *United States v. Darby Lumber Co.*; and

Whereas, while *United States v. Darby Lumber Co.* remains precedent, since 2018 there has been renewed interest in the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment, including passage by the Hawaii Senate in 2021 and 2022 and introduction in several other state legislative chambers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the New Hampshire legislature reaffirms its ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the clerk of the New Hampshire house of representatives is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and New Hampshire's congressional delegation.

POM-185. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire urging the United States Congress to remove the exception from the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution: "except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, slavery and involuntary servitude are antithetical to the concept of freedom and liberty put forth by the founding fathers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives hereby urges Congress to remove the exception from the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution reading "except as a punishment crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted"; and be it further

Resolved, That the house clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to all the members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-186. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument, to establish a National Park Service-managed Joshua Tree National Monument adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, and to establish the Kw'tsan National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, Approximately 60 percent of land in the continental United States is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds, and the decline of nature threatens wildlife, as approximately 1,000,000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades across the globe, including one-third of United States wildlife; and

Whereas, The United States Geological Survey reports that only 12 percent of the

nation's lands and inland waters are permanently protected, and other studies show that roughly 23 percent of the nation's coastal waters are currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of ocean protections found in the Pacific Ocean along the western coast of the United States; and

Whereas, On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14008, which launched a governmentwide effort to confront climate change, restore balance on the nation's public lands and waters, create jobs, and provide a path to align the management of the nation's public lands and waters with national climate, conservation, and clean energy goals; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. 14008 directs the United States Department of the Interior to outline steps to achieve the President's commitment to conserve at least 30 percent each of the nation's lands and waters by the year 2030, known as the 30x30 goal, in order to safeguard the nation's health, food supplies, biodiversity, and the prosperity of every community and to undertake the process with broad engagement, including agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts, sovereign tribal nations, states, territories, local officials, and others, to identify strategies that reflect the priorities of all communities; and

Whereas, in October 2020, Governor Newsom outlined a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to expand nature-based solutions across California through Executive Order No. N-82-20, elevating the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change, advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority, and committing the state to the goal of conserving 30 percent of state lands and coastal waters by 2030; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. N-82-20 directs the Natural Resources Agency to coordinate the execution of the 30x30 goal with other state agencies and stakeholders through a series of actions, including the development of a strategy document by February 2022 titled "Pathways to 30x30" that sets California on the path to successfully implement our 30x30 conservation goal; and

Whereas, California tribal nations have protected and conserved their indigenous and aboriginal lands since time immemorial, utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge, also known as Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, evolved over hundreds of thousands of years through direct contact with the environment, and are continuing the tradition of stewardship by leading efforts to establish or expand national monument land protections in California; and

Whereas, The Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations are leading the effort to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument to protect approximately 627,000 acres of federal public lands that reach from the Coachella Valley region in the west to the Colorado River in the east; and

Whereas, Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument would help ensure equitable access to nature, honor a cultural landscape, and protect the desert's unique biodiversity, wildlife habitat, landscape connectivity, and history; and

Whereas, The Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations are calling to protect approximately 17,000 acres of public lands that are adjacent to the east side of Joshua Tree National Park, as these lands are a living landscape with interconnected cultural, natural, and spiritual significance, which sustains the well-being and survival of Indigenous peoples today; and

Whereas, The Joshua Tree expansion area would connect to the proposed Chuckwalla

National Monument and other protected places, which would help ensure land connectivity for indigenous species, and would also preserve places of cultural and historical importance, including the homelands of the Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations; and

Whereas, The Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe is leading the effort to establish the Kw'tsan National Monument, which would protect more than 390,000 acres of the tribe's aboriginal homelands located in the County of Imperial, California; and

Whereas, The proposed Kw'tsan National Monument lands contain incredible cultural, ecological, recreational, scenic, and historic values, including trails, desert life, petroglyphs, geoglyphs, and lithics, and the establishment of a national monument would provide protections for wildlife, cultural places, sacred sites, and scenic features; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the State of California urges the President to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. Sec. 320101 et seq.) to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument, to establish a National Park Service-managed Joshua Tree National Monument adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, and to establish the Kw'tsan National Monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States

POM-187. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Sattitla National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, Approximately 60 percent of land in the continental United States is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds, and the decline of nature threatens wildlife as approximately 1,000,000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades across the globe, including one-third of United States wildlife; and

Whereas, The United States Geological Survey reports that only 12.9 percent of United States lands are permanently protected, and other studies show that roughly 23 percent of the ocean waters under United States jurisdiction are currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of these protected waters being in the Pacific Ocean along the Western United States;

Whereas, On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14008, which launched a governmentwide effort to confront climate change, restore balance on our nation's public lands and waters, create jobs, and provide a path to align the management of our nation's public lands and waters with national climate, conservation, and clean energy goals; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. 14008 directs the United States Department of the Interior to outline steps to achieve the President's commitment to conserve at least 30 percent each of our lands and waters by the year

2030, known as the 30x30 goal, in order to safeguard our health, food supplies, biodiversity, and the prosperity of every community and to undertake the process with broad engagement, including agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts, sovereign tribal nations, states, territories, local officials, and others to identify strategies that reflect the priorities of all communities; and

Whereas, in October 2020, Governor Newsom outlined a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to expand nature-based solutions across California through Executive Order No. N-82-20, elevating the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change and advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority and committing the state to the goal of conserving 30 percent of state lands and coastal waters by 2030; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. N-82-20 directs the Natural Resources Agency to coordinate the execution of the 30x30 goal with other state agencies and stakeholders through a series of actions, including the development of a strategy document by February 2022 titled "Pathways to 30x30," that sets California on the path to successfully implement our 30x30 conservation goal; and

Whereas, California tribal nations have protected and conserved their indigenous and aboriginal lands since time immemorial utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge, also known as Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, evolved over hundreds of thousands of years through direct contact with the environment, and are continuing the tradition of stewardship by leading efforts to establish or expand national monument land protections in California; and

Whereas, The Pit River Tribe is leading the effort to establish a S  t  tla National Monument, totaling approximately 205,000 acres so that the area will be recognized for its cultural, geologic, and ecological value, and its resources and wildlife preserved; and

Whereas, S  t  tla is an irreplaceable resource as a major source of water for the state of California, an area of singular geological features, and home to numerous endangered species, including the bald eagle and the northern spotted owl, and is also culturally significant to the Pit River, Modoc, Shasta, Karuk, and Wintu peoples of north-eastern California, and is a spiritual center for the Pit River and Modoc Tribes who gather there for ceremonies and other important gatherings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the State of California urges the President to use the Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. Sec. 320101 et seq.) to establish the S  t  tla National Monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-188. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, The State of Texas desires to provide the most streamlined and consolidated

customer service for those seeking work, unemployment benefits, or social safety net services; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Labor and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) currently restrict the consolidation of federally funded employment and job training services with other federally funded services such as safety net services; and

Whereas, in Texas, federally funded employment services and workforce development services are provided by local workforce development boards and the Texas Workforce Commission, and federally funded social services are provided by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission; and

Whereas, Texans seeking assistance with employment and job training services, as well as social safety net services, are forced to seek such services at more than one location of state and local government agencies, with little to no consolidation or coordination of such services; and

Whereas, The State of Texas desires to develop a consolidation plan for the delivery of workforce development and social services to its citizens in order to provide a broader and more streamlined delivery of services to those seeking such services; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-189. A petition from the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan expressing their deepest sympathies on the wide-spread damage caused by the powerful hurricane Helene; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Sharad Harshad Desai, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Bobby Jack Woods, of Kentucky, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Mr. PETERS:

S. 5315. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border secu-

rity by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5316. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the period of time for making S corporation elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5317. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Homeland Security Information Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5318. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of certain agencies and organizations, to conduct a study on the health effects of indoor residential mold growth in military unaccompanied housing or other housing on military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5319. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an annual audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5320. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to authorize certain long-term contracts for Federal purchases of energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5321. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5322. A bill to amend the United States Sentencing Guidelines applicable to human smuggling offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 5323. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5324. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5325. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):