

section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Senegal in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-043); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6998. A communication from the Management Analyst, Fisheries Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement Revised Rules Pertaining to Inspection and Certification of Establishments, Fishery Products, and Other Marine Ingredients" (RIN0648-BH37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6999. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Notice of Revised Exchange Visitor Skills List" (RIN1400-AF92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7000. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2022 Progress Report on Understanding the Long-Term Health Effects of Living Organ Donation"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7001. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Regulation; Exemption for Legal Case Management Records" (RIN1212-AB59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7002. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tip Regulations Under the Fair Labor Standards Act; Restoration of Regulatory Language" (RIN1235-AA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7003. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act; Implementation" (RIN0970-AD15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7004. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins; Biennial Review of the List of Select Agents and Toxins" (RIN0920-AA71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7005. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Protecting Care Access" (RIN0955-AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7006. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review

Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7007. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2025-02, Introduction" (FAC 2025-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7008. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7009. A communication from the Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Chairman's Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7010. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7011. A communication from the Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7012. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7013. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2024 Agency Financial Report received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7014. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7015. A communication from the Assistant to the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Self-Governance PROGRESS Act Regulations" (RIN1076-AF62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-7016. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Special Immigrant Visas - U.S. Government Employee Special Immigrant Visas for Service Abroad" (RIN1400-AF82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 18, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7017. A communication from the Chief of the Immigration Law Division, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Bars and Processing; Delay of Effective Date" ((RIN1125-AA81) (RIN1615-AC57)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7018. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Institute of Justice Annual Report 2023"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-192. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of North Carolina urging the United States Congress to work closer with Germany on mutually beneficial trade relations to encourage increased investment and collaboration between German and American companies in the economy of both the United States and Germany, respectively; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1076

Whereas, North Carolina and Germany have enjoyed decades of friendly and enduring relations, marked by robust economic partnerships, vibrant cultural ties, and shared values that have strengthened the relations between the two regions; and

Whereas, North Carolina has enjoyed a tight cultural infusion from Germany through immigration, particularly the establishment of the Moravian community in Winston-Salem, and the State's first capital, New Bern, founded by Swiss and German Palatines led by Baron Christoph von Graffenried, and German-namesakes for our communities, including the County of New Hanover, named after the House of Hanover, and the Counties of Mecklenburg and Brunswick, named after Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Queen Consort of Great Britain, and King George I of Great Britain, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg, and Prince-Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, respectively; and

Whereas, Germany stands as one of the largest originators of foreign direct investment in North Carolina, with over \$3 billion invested into North Carolina's economy since 2007; and

Whereas, Germany is one of North Carolina's largest trading partners, and ninth largest export destination, with \$4 billion in trade annually; and

Whereas, Germany has played an essential role in job creation in North Carolina across various sectors, with 230 German companies employing over 43,000 North Carolinians, with 7,075 new jobs and more than \$2.2 billion in capital investment announced since 2014, thereby contributing significantly to the State's employment and economy; and

Whereas, North Carolina has emerged as a premier destination for German investment

and ranks among the top US states selected by Germany as a beneficiary of foreign direct investment, reflecting the State's favorable business environment, developed infrastructure, and skilled workforce; and

Whereas, German companies have made significant contributions to North Carolina's economic diversification and innovation, driving research and development initiatives through North Carolina's esteemed higher education institutions and in partnerships with domestic industries; and

Whereas, trade with Germany plays an instrumental role in North Carolina's economic activity, enhancing prosperity and growth, and fostering mutually beneficial exchanges of goods, services, and technologies, thereby solidifying Germany as a vital trading partner and ally; and

Whereas, over 16,600 German expatriates currently live or work in North Carolina, leading to the establishment of the Deutsche Schule Charlotte in 1974 to service the German language education needs of the German-speaking community in Charlotte; and

Whereas, five daily direct flights now connect North Carolina with Germany, including service from the Charlotte Douglas and Raleigh-Durham International Airports to Frankfurt and Munich; and

Whereas, ApprenticeshipNC's dual-track model for manufacturing apprenticeships was inspired by the Duales Ausbildungssystem pioneered by Germany; and

Whereas, Germany and the United States have maintained a steadfast alliance, founded on shared principles of democracy, human rights, and global security with this beneficial relationship contributing to international and regional peace, stability, and prosperity; and

Whereas, the democratic principles upheld by both Germany and the United States, serving as essential foundations for international order and cooperation, form the bedrock of the enduring friendship between North Carolina and Germany; and

Whereas, North Carolina remains committed to its friendship with Germany and to the US-German alliance and peaceful trade between the nations; Now, therefore,

be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes the historic significance of the friendship and alliance between the United States and Germany.

Section 2. The House of Representatives commends the people of Germany for their remarkable achievements in promoting democracy, economic prosperity, and international cooperation.

Section 3. The House of Representatives applauds Germany for its continued partnership and economic cooperation with the State of North Carolina.

Section 4. The House of Representatives affirms the steadfast and enduring friendship and cooperation between Germany and the State of North Carolina and expresses commitment to further strengthening these ties.

Section 5. The House of Representatives urges Congress to work closer with Germany on mutually beneficial trade relations to encourage increased investment and collaboration between German and American companies in the economy of both the United States and Germany, respectively.

Section 6. The House of Representatives expresses to Congress full support for the longstanding alliance between the United States of America and Germany, which remains essential for global security and prosperity.

Section 7. The Principal Clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the Embassy of Germany in Washington, D.C., and the

Consulate-General of Germany in Atlanta, Georgia, each member of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and the President of the United States.

Section 8. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

POM-193. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California requesting the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention conduct further investigation into the concerns raised regarding potential health impacts attributed to pollution in the Tijuana River; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, The Tijuana River, which flows east to west from Mexico into California and drains into the Pacific Ocean through the Tijuana Estuary, has for decades experienced an increased discharge of trash, sediment, and wastewater generated on the Mexico side, which, as a result of sewage infrastructure inadequacies, has created recurring and worsening pollution problems for the County of San Diego and the southern California coastline; and

Whereas, This past January, a storm surge caused 14.5 billion gallons of raw sewage and pollution to wash up on the banks of the river, as well as overflow into the nearby coastal wetlands, one of the few remaining such ecosystems left in southern California; and

Whereas, The City of Imperial Beach has declared a continued state of emergency since 2017 as a result of the escalated discharge of raw sewage from the City of Tijuana, Mexico, that has caused numerous health problems and significant beach closure days at Imperial Beach, which include 101 days in 2018, 243 days in 2019, 295 days in 2020, and 246 days in 2021, and the beach has yet to open since December 2021; and

Whereas, The County of San Diego, on June 27, 2023, declared a local emergency due to the public health, environmental, and economic impacts of the cross-border pollution disaster; and

Whereas, The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District has deployed air monitors in the communities surrounding the Tijuana River Valley that have shown levels of sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide above standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

Whereas, Californians who live and work in communities such as Imperial Beach, Nestor, San Ysidro, and the Tijuana River Valley have reported headaches, chronic cough, diarrhea, vomiting, and other symptoms, particularly after heavy rains when more sewage hits the riverbed and when odors seem stronger during hot and dry days; and

Whereas, Research by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, attributed 34,000 annual illnesses to water quality pollution along the City of Imperial Beach coastline in the County of San Diego, and linked up to 76 percent of bacteria in the City of Imperial Beach air to cross-border water pollution, and data from medical clinics in the City of Imperial Beach shows a significant increase in cases of diarrhea and other intestinal problems during significant cross-border flow events; and

Whereas, Flesh-eating bacteria and other dangerous pathogens have been linked to Tijuana River pollution and the exposure to raw human sewage, massive coliform bacteria contamination, and toxic chemicals; and

Whereas, A 2023 study conducted by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, showed

sea spray associated with pollution in the Tijuana River carries dangerous bacteria and chemical compounds inland through tiny aerosolized particles that can reach people on land; and

Whereas, The risk of acute infectious diseases and chronic conditions is potentially high, but not well understood, indicating a public health crisis with the possibility for long-term impacts on health, society, and the economy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature requests the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct further investigation into the concerns raised regarding potential health impacts attributed to pollution in the Tijuana River; 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 the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and to the Director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

POM-194. 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 modify bankruptcy rules to provide, in the event of liquidation and termination of oil and gas leases under the United States Bankruptcy Code, that priority is given to plug and abandonment and restoration obligations, to protect the environment, over all secured creditor claims; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, in 2016, Rincon Island Limited Partnership, a lessee of state oil and gas leases offshore of the County of Ventura, filed for bankruptcy in Texas, and in 2017, quitclaimed their three leases to the state, deliberately ignoring their contractual and statutory obligations to plug and abandon 75 oil and gas wells and decommission two oil production facilities located on public lands; and

Whereas, In 2017, Venoco, LLC, a lessee of state oil and gas leases offshore of the County of Santa Barbara, surrendered its leases to the state and then declared bankruptcy in Delaware, without undertaking its legal obligation to plug 32 wells across the leases or to decommission Platform Holly and the associated facilities; and

Whereas, At the time of the bankruptcies, the leases operated by Rincon Island Limited Partnership were out of compliance with the lease requirements, creating greater risk of an uncontrolled release of oil or gas into the marine environment, and rather than bring the leases into compliance, as they were legally required to do, and as California governmental agencies were pressing them to do, Rincon Island Limited Partnership chose bankruptcy as a way to avoid the costs of compliance and decommissioning; and

Whereas, The leases operated by Venoco, LLC were ultimately deserted on the grounds that the company could no longer afford to operate, risking releases of hydrogen sulfide gas and oil from wells located on Platform Holly; and

Whereas, In both instances, the State of California was forced to use its police powers to enter and to manage the abatement of the deserted oil and gas facilities to ensure protection of human health and safety and the environment; and

Whereas, The obligations under the leases for both Rincon Island Limited Partnership and Venoco, LLC required each to permanently and safely plug and abandon all wells

and restore public property to its natural condition at the lessee's expense, an obligation now forced upon the State of California because of bankruptcy protections provided for in federal law, costing taxpayers more than \$150,000,000; and

Whereas, The State of California has statutory obligations, enforced by the Department of Conservation's California Geologic Energy Management Division, for operators to permanently plug and abandon oil wells and decommission oil and gas infrastructure at the end of its useful life and

Whereas, By quitclaiming its leases before filing bankruptcy, Venoco, LLC was allowed to convert the contractual obligations that it agreed to when it became a lessee of the state, including the obligation to plug wells and restore public lands, into an unsecured claim, ensuring that the State of California would receive only a fractional payment of its estimated claim and only after all secured creditors were paid; and

Whereas, Despite active and aggressive attempts by the state to pursue Rincon Island Limited Partnership through the bankruptcy process, including traveling to Texas, where Rincon Island Limited Partnership filed bankruptcy, and retention of outside counsel specializing in these matters, Rincon Island Limited Partnership was legally able to dissolve and largely avoid its responsibilities to plug and abandon and decommission by virtue of the United States' debtor-friendly bankruptcy laws; and

Whereas, Despite active participation in each bankruptcy, the State of California will likely receive little to no compensation from the debtor's estates for the public monies spent to safely manage and abate the facilities deserted by the debtors; and

Whereas, Beyond these two cases, there are over 35,000 oil wells in California categorized as idle, with many owned by companies that could seek bankruptcy protection, requiring future plug and abandonment by the State of California, without recompense; and

Whereas, The risk remains that oil and gas companies could, in the future, employ the strategy of filing bankruptcy to circumvent their decommissioning responsibilities, thereby shifting the costs of remediation and abatement to California taxpayers; and

Whereas, The people of California believe it is important that the federal government ensure that bankruptcy does not provide a default pathway for oil and gas companies, or their equity owners, to shift critical environmental obligations to decommission oil and gas infrastructure to the public or to otherwise publicly subsidize the operations of these private companies; and

Whereas, On January 31, 2019, the Supreme Court of Canada held that, consistent with an order of the Alberta State regulator, a bankruptcy debtor had to comply with end-of-life abandonment obligations prior to any distribution to creditors (*Orphan Well Association v. Grant Thornton Ltd.* (2019) SCC 5); now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to modify bankruptcy rules to treat the plug and abandonment and lease restoration obligations for debtor held oil and gas leases, quitclaimed or accepted, as nondischargeable obligations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to modify bankruptcy rules to provide, in the event of liquidation and termination of oil and gas leases under Chapters 7 and 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Sec. 101 et seq.), that priority is

given to plug and abandonment and restoration obligations, to protect the environment, over all secured creditor claims; 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 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-195. 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 address, with effective policies, the issue of servicemembers who were unjustly discharged under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' or predecessor provisions, in order to unify efforts to upgrade discharges issued under the DADT policy, and to restore benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, In the 1940s and the 1980s, the United States Department of Defense (DOD) established policies that penalized military members and resulted in the discharge of gay, lesbian, and bisexual members regardless of their service to the country and good military service. During the 1980s, more than 17,000 military members were dismissed from their duties due to their orientation, not because of misconduct; and

Whereas, In the military, there are administrative and punitive discharges. The three types of administrative terminations that exist are honorable, general, and other than honorable. The punitive discharges are bad conduct and dishonorable; and

Whereas, Receiving a dishonorable discharge represents the most serious form of punitive termination. Thousands of brave women, men, and transgender people were discharged due to their orientation and their associations; and

Whereas, The different branches of the DOD have labeled their discharges as "sexual perversion," "homosexual," or other codes, which are derogatory, harmful, and outdated; and

Whereas, Thousands of veterans have carried the emotional pain, anguish, and burden of their discharge for decades; and

Whereas, Almost 30 years ago, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) brought a new wave of homophobia and persecution to the military. In 1993, President Clinton signed the DADT policy into law, which would ultimately lead to the discharge of more than 14,000 servicemembers over the 17 years in which the policy was in place; and

Whereas, This policy discriminated against and prevented servicemembers from expressing their sexuality and participating as equal members of the military and continues to punish them to this day. The policy punished servicemembers for being their authentic selves if other members or supervisors found out about their orientation; gay, lesbian, and bisexual members would be discharged under the "other than honorable" and "dishonorable" categories; and

Whereas, Such discharges resulted in servicemembers losing benefits they were entitled to and hindered future employment opportunities. Veterans that received "other than honorable" or "dishonorable" discharges have not had access to health care and their full benefits. This limits their ability to access benefits such as a debt-free college education and other employment opportunities. Furthermore, with these discharges, members are prevented from careers within the federal government; and

Whereas, In 2010, President Obama signed into law, the repeal of the DADT policy, that went into effect the next year; and

Whereas, The repeal of DADT provided a pathway for veterans that received an "other than honorable" discharge to undergo an upgrade, and veterans with a "dishonorable" discharge to apply for a "character of discharge process." While this was an important step to help right a wrong it is the responsibility of the discharged veteran to initiate the process to clear their record; and

Whereas, Despite that initial effort, and further changes to the policy, thousands of veterans still have not upgraded their discharges, and have not had access to their benefits; and

Whereas, Thousands of former members face different obstacles to access the discharge upgrade. Many are unaware the process to update their discharge is available. Some of the members that have been working on their discharges learned about it by chance or because of their families. There have not been other forums to educate former servicemembers of the possibility of utilizing this process; and

Whereas, Another barrier that exists is the emotional trauma associated with re-engaging the military that wrongfully discharged them. When members have to go back to the entity that discriminated against them, it becomes an emotional strain. And there is still resistance from the boards that are processing discharge upgrades. Boards are harsh, they do not see the harm, and there is no recognition of the context; and

Whereas, A further burden when applying for a discharge upgrade is the accessibility and complexity of the process. Veterans often need to retain legal guidance and the overall process can take over a year. If a servicemember's record was destroyed or misplaced, that can add even more time to the process; and

Whereas, Transgender people have also faced discrimination while serving our country. In 2019, President Trump barred them from joining the military. Those already in the military had to refrain from gender-affirming health care and serve according to their assigned sex at birth. In 2021, President Biden issued an executive order repealing this discriminatory policy; and

Whereas, On September 20, 2023, the DOD announced the "DOD's Proactive Approach to Reviewing Military Records for Those Affected by DADT" to proactively work on the review of military records of veterans whose records indicate administrative separation under the DADT period, this effort still leaves out thousands of veterans discharged prior to the DADT policy because it ignores other discharged members that were not explicitly discharged on these grounds. Other discharged members were affected by the previous policies that resulted in service records with aggravating factors such as misconduct or court-martial convictions; and

Whereas, These non-DADT discharges were also the product of bias, perception, or suspicion of sexual orientation or the identity of the members, or a pretext to separate and discipline the members; and

Whereas, Some discharges were also the product of cases in which the members of the DOD had consensual activity with adults of the same sex, and that some of these were categorized as sodomy, and eventually misconduct that was used to effect administrative separation for activity which is now acceptable; and

Whereas, Guidance is available with respect to the applications that are more complex than those addressed in previous efforts. Guidance may be provided by veterans' advocates or found in the Memorandum for Secretaries of the Military Departments regarding discharge review boards and boards for correction of military and naval records dated July 25, 2018; and

Whereas, Despite the many obstacles, there have been many great efforts to help discharged military members. Most of the work has been done through legal service providers, which have been working with unfairly discharged veterans to provide free or low-cost services to upgrade their discharge; and

Whereas, For the last 70 years, much harm was caused to the thousands of veterans unfairly discharged under DADT and previous policies. For many, the damage and the trauma can be permanent. Discharged members have struggled with feelings of shame and anxiety. The true cure must be addressed with more effective policies to restore their dignity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature denounces the obstacles and harm that members of the military discharged before, under, and even after the DADT policy have undergone and suffered; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the President and Congress of the United States to address the issue with effective policies to unify efforts to upgrade the “less than honorable” discharges issued under DADT and predecessor policies. The federal government should address the obstacles veterans and organizations have encountered to create a streamlined, simple, and immediate option to upgrade an “other than honorable” discharge and restore benefits to veterans who have served our country honorably are entitled to; 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, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

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. MERKLEY:

S. 2. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to prohibit political election or contest agreements, contracts, transactions, and swaps; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive cost-sharing for advance care planning services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KIM, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5639. A bill to extend the authority for the protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft; considered and passed.

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

S. 5640. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect children's health by denying any deduction for advertising and marketing directed at children to promote the consumption of food of poor nutritional quality; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5641. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for qualified conservation con-

tributions which include National Scenic Trails; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 5642. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 5643. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Government of Turkiye, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 5644. A bill to establish a new visa category for high-skilled aliens seeking employment in slow-growing and shrinking counties in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 5645. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to increase amounts deposited in the Historic Preservation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 5646. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 5647. A bill to require Federal agencies to impose in-person work requirements for employees of those agencies and to occupy a certain portion of the office space of those agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 5648. A bill to protect the national security of the United States by imposing sanctions with respect to certain persons of the People's Republic of China and prohibiting and requiring notifications with respect to certain investments by United States persons in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5649. A bill to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. WARREN:

S. Res. 938. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the duty of the Federal Government to dramatically expand and strengthen the care economy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 939. A resolution commending and congratulating the Hutchinson Community College Blue Dragons football team for winning the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association Football National Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. Res. 940. A resolution honoring the lives and service of Natalie and Davy Lloyd and expressing condolences to the family of Natalie and Davy Lloyd; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. Res. 941. A resolution congratulating the University of Vermont men's soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men's soccer national championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. Res. 942. A resolution congratulating the Washington University in St. Louis Bears women's soccer team for winning the 2024 NCAA Division III Women's Soccer Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 725

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 725, a bill to amend the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 to apply to members of the Coast Guard when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy, and for other purposes.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 2204

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2204, a bill to ensure that federally backed financing for the construction, rehabilitation, or purchase of manufactured home communities is available only for communities whose owner has implemented minimum consumer protections in the lease agreements with residents of all manufactured home communities owned by such owner, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2570

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2570, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to provide technical assistance to improve infrastructure in foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland