

In developing this legislation, Senator YOUNG and I worked closely with key stakeholders, who are on the frontlines in the adult education community. I am pleased to count the American Library Association, the Center for Law and Social Policy, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education, the National Coalition for Literacy, National Skills Coalition, ProLiteracy, the TESOL, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, International Association, and the Urban Libraries Council among the supporters of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and work with us to ensure it is passed on its own or as part of legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 163—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLELA ROREX, A PIONEERING COUNTY CLERK WHO, IN 1975, ADVANCED CIVIL RIGHTS FOR ALL COUPLES SEEKING TO BE MARRIED

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

S. RES. 163

Whereas Clela Ann Rorex (referred to in this preamble as “Clela”) was born in Denver on July 23, 1943;

Whereas Ruby Rorex, the mother of Clela, was a dance and theater teacher, and Cecil Rorex, the father of Clela, served for 30 years as clerk of Routt County, Colorado, where Clela grew up in Steamboat Springs;

Whereas Clela earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1973 and a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Colorado Denver in 1981;

Whereas, in January 1975, at the age of 31, Clela became the Boulder County Clerk and Recorder;

Whereas, in 1975, when a same-sex couple requested a marriage license in Boulder County, Clela consulted the assistant district attorney and learned that Colorado state laws did not specifically prohibit granting a marriage license to a same-sex couple;

Whereas, as a newly-elected county clerk, Clela issued a marriage license to Dave McCord and Dave Zamora, the first marriage license issued to a same-sex couple in the United States;

Whereas Clela was quoted in 2016 as saying, “After having been so deeply involved in the women’s rights movements, who was I to then deny a right to anyone else? It wasn’t my job to legislate morality.”;

Whereas, after issuing the first marriage license to a same-sex couple in 1975, Clela issued 5 more marriage licenses to same-sex couples over the next month;

Whereas national news outlets circulated the groundbreaking story of Clela issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, after which Clela reported receiving a deluge of death threats and condemnation in hundreds of letters and phone calls to the Boulder County Clerk’s office;

Whereas, despite the threats, Clela continued her advocacy efforts on behalf of the

LGBTQ community, including by marching, volunteering, and donating to LGBTQ efforts for decades;

Whereas, in 2014, a series of court rulings cleared the way for same-sex marriages in Colorado, and, in 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, 40 years after Clela issued the first same-sex marriage license in the United States;

Whereas Clela was 78 years old when she died on June 19, 2022, in Longmont, Colorado;

Whereas, in honor of Clela and her advocacy for human rights, Boulder County, Colorado, declared July 23, 2022, to be “Clela Rorex Day”;

Whereas Clela should be recognized for her leadership as a national civil rights leader, paving the way for countless individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the contributions of Clela Rorex as a pioneer for civil rights and same-sex marriage;

(B) the respect and bravery Clela Rorex demonstrated when issuing the first same-sex marriage license in the United States; and

(C) the courage Clela Rorex exhibited following the threats she received when she issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples; and

(2) designates March 26, 2025, as “Clela Rorex Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 164—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 164

Whereas public safety telecommunications professionals play a critical role in emergency response;

Whereas the work that public safety telecommunications professionals perform goes far beyond simply relaying information between the public and first responders;

Whereas, when responding to reports of missing, abducted, and sexually exploited children, the information obtained and actions taken by public safety telecommunications professionals form the foundation for an effective response;

Whereas, when a hostage taker or suicidal individual calls 911, the first contact that individual has is with a public safety telecommunications professional, whose negotiation skills can prevent the situation from worsening;

Whereas, during crises, public safety telecommunications professionals, while collecting vital information to provide situational awareness for responding officers—

(1) coach callers through first aid techniques; and

(2) give advice to those callers to prevent further harm;

Whereas the work done by individuals who serve as public safety telecommunications professionals has an extreme emotional and physical toll on those individuals, which is compounded by long hours and the around-the-clock nature of the job;

Whereas public safety telecommunications professionals should be recognized by all levels of government for the lifesaving and protective nature of their work;

Whereas major emergencies highlight the dedication of public safety telecommunications professionals and their important work in protecting the public and police, fire, and emergency medical officials; and

Whereas public safety telecommunications professionals are often called as witnesses to provide important testimony in criminal trials: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week;

(2) honors and recognizes the important and lifesaving contributions of public safety telecommunications professionals in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to remember the value of the work performed by public safety telecommunications professionals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 165—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PLAN OF PRESIDENT TRUMP AND ELON MUSK TO FIRE 83,000 EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IS UNACCEPTABLE AND MUST BE RESCINDED

Mr. SANDERS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:

S. RES. 165

Whereas, at the direction of President Trump and Elon Musk, the Department of Veterans Affairs is preparing a plan to fire up to 83,000 employees who provide care and benefits to our veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Department of Veterans Affairs must immediately reject and rescind its Agency Reduction in Force and Reorganization Plan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 166—DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT OF ALL VETERAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES INVOLUNTARILY REMOVED OR OTHERWISE DISMISSED WITHOUT CAUSE SINCE JANUARY 20, 2025

Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 166

Whereas, on February 13, 2025, the Department of Veterans Affairs (in this preamble referred to as the “Department”) issued a statement dismissing more than 1,000 employees, including Veterans Crisis Line workers;

Whereas, on February 24, 2025, the Department issued a statement dismissing an additional 1,400 employees, once again including Veterans Crisis Line workers;

Whereas, on March 4, 2025, the Department distributed an internal memorandum outlining plans to dismiss up to 83,000 employees this year;

Whereas, at least 6,000 veterans have been dismissed across the Federal workforce because of the Trump administration’s sweep of mass terminations across the Federal Government;

Whereas, despite repeated demands for transparency and good governance, Members of Congress and the United States public have yet to receive—

(1) data or justification about—

(A) the decision-making process that lead to these involuntary dismissals; or

(B) the already existing disruptions to several critical Department programs; or

(2) the Administration's plan for the future of the Department;

Whereas veterans make up 30 percent of the Federal workforce, serving first in uniform and then choosing to continue to serve in the Federal Government; and

Whereas it is the duty of the United States to support our veterans by making sure they have the benefits and care they were promised: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that any veteran Federal employee that was involuntarily removed or otherwise dismissed without cause since January 20, 2025, should—

(1) be immediately reinstated with guaranteed full and timely back pay; and

(2) receive timely notice of their reinstatement with clear instructions on the path forward for their position, with clear understanding, communication, and oversight from their respective chains of command.

SENATE RESOLUTION 167—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 167

Whereas the United States became an Arctic nation upon the purchase of Alaska in 1867;

Whereas the Arctic Council was established on September 19, 1996, through the Ottawa Declaration, to enhance cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the Arctic states with the active involvement of Arctic Indigenous peoples and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues;

Whereas the United States is a founding member of the Arctic Council and has twice served as Chair, from 1998 to 2000, and again from 2015 to 2017;

Whereas the Ottawa Declaration defines 8 states, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States, as Arctic states and members of the Arctic Council as they have sovereignty over territory in the Arctic region;

Whereas the Arctic region is undergoing unprecedented environmental, economic, and social changes due to the impacts of climate change and increased human activity;

Whereas the Arctic Council has an advanced understanding of Arctic challenges through scientific assessments, policy recommendations, and collaborative initiatives;

Whereas the engagement of Indigenous communities and respect for traditional knowledge are integral to the Arctic Council's success;

Whereas the Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental initiative involving all Arctic states, raising global awareness of the Arctic's significance and influencing international climate policies;

Whereas the Arctic Council has addressed key issues such as persistent organic pollutants, oil spill prevention, search and rescue, and scientific collaboration;

Whereas the Arctic Council emphasizes sustainable development, environmental protection, and peace in the Arctic amidst grow-

ing competition over resources and shipping routes;

Whereas the Arctic Council has played a vital role in maintaining the Arctic as a region of low tension and its continued work is essential to ensuring a safe, secure, and stable Arctic for all;

Whereas the Arctic Council has made significant contributions to understanding Arctic biodiversity, ocean health, and sustainable resource management, while also addressing emerging threats such as microplastics and shipping pollution;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated leadership in Arctic affairs, notably through initiatives such as the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, which provided a groundbreaking understanding of climate change impacts, and the International Circumpolar Surveillance system, a region-wide disease surveillance system led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas the United States has supported collaborative Arctic Council initiatives such as the Circumpolar Wildland Fire Initiative, developed under Norway's Chairship, in partnership with Gwich'in Council International;

Whereas the Russian Federation's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has significantly impacted the operations of the Arctic Council, raising concerns over the Russian Federation's military modernization in the Arctic and reinforcing cooperative security ties among the 7 other Arctic states (commonly known as the "A7");

Whereas, in response to the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the A7 states temporarily paused participation in all Arctic Council meetings;

Whereas the European Union suspended cooperation with the Russian Federation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, leading to the withdrawal of the Russian Federation in 2023;

Whereas, despite the suspension of cooperation with the Russian Federation, the Arctic Council and its working groups resumed activities in mid-2023;

Whereas, in February 2024, the Russian Federation suspended annual payments to the Arctic Council until its participation was reinstated;

Whereas, in February 2024, the 8 Arctic states, in consultation with Indigenous permanent participant organizations, reached consensus to gradually resume official working group meetings;

Whereas Finland and Sweden's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has heightened the Arctic's strategic importance for the alliance;

Whereas, in recent years, the United States has expanded its diplomatic presence in the Arctic region and strengthened economic and people to people ties with the region;

Whereas the Russian Federation's diplomatic isolation from the A7 states has led to the Kremlin's increased cooperation with non-A7 countries, particularly the People's Republic of China, which poses a threat to United States and European national security; and

Whereas a national intelligence estimate by the National Intelligence Council indicates that both Arctic and non-Arctic states will likely increase their competitive activities and military presence in the region as warming temperatures make the Arctic more accessible and states seek to protect their investments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the key role the Arctic Council has played as a critical forum for fostering international cooperation, sustainable development, and environmental protection in the Arctic region;

(2) commends the Arctic Council for its achievements in promoting scientific research, policy coordination, and Indigenous participation to address regional challenges;

(3) affirms the United States commitment to active participation and leadership within the Arctic Council to advance shared goals and uphold the values of cooperation and respect among Arctic nations and Indigenous peoples;

(4) acknowledges the Arctic Council's 8 member states—Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States—as key participants in the Arctic Council due to their sovereignty over territories in the Arctic Region, which enables them to engage in collaborative efforts to address Arctic issues;

(5) encourages increased collaboration among Arctic Council member states, permanent participants, and observers to address emerging challenges and opportunities in the Arctic, including the impacts of climate change and sustainable economic development;

(6) supports robust funding and resources for United States agencies and organizations engaged in Arctic Council activities to ensure the United States fulfills its responsibilities as an Arctic nation;

(7) calls upon the Arctic Council to continue prioritizing peace, security, and environmental stewardship in the Arctic to safeguard the region for future generations;

(8) urges the executive branch to uphold and promote the principles and objectives of the Arctic Council in its Arctic policy and diplomacy efforts;

(9) emphasizes the importance of increased United States attention and resources in the Arctic as geopolitical competition and human activities in the region intensify; and

(10) emphasizes the importance of the position of United States Arctic Ambassador-at-Large to provide strong and consistent United States leadership in Arctic diplomacy and engagement and urges the executive branch to take all necessary steps to prevent prolonged vacancies in this critical role.

SENATE RESOLUTION 168—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE RISE UP FOR LGBTQI+ YOUTH IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE, A CALL TO ACTION TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO DEMAND EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS, AND FREEDOM FROM ERASURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY LGBTQI+ YOUNG PEOPLE, IN K-12 SCHOOLS

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 168

Whereas young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free from transphobia, homophobia, racism, sexism, and ableism in K-12 schools;

Whereas K-12 schools must be safe and inclusive learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and people with disabilities and those who