

Whereas national, State, territorial, and Tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, culturally specific sexual assault organizations, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

- (1) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education; and
- (2) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, culturally specific sexual assault organizations, and nonprofit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

- (1) the victim service programs of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (commonly known and referred to in this preamble as “RAINN”), including the National Sexual Assault Hotline—

(A) by telephone at 800-656-HOPE; and

(B) online at <https://hotline.rainn.org>; and

- (2) more than 1,500 local rape crisis centers across the United States;

Whereas the victim service programs of RAINN, including the National Sexual Assault Hotline, help more than 300,000 survivors and their loved ones each year on average;

Whereas the Department of Defense provides the Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile application, each of which provide support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

(1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and

(2) online at <https://SafeHelpline.org>;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

- (1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

- (2) for no victim of sexual assault to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2025 is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity—

- (i) to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence; and

(ii) to encourage—

- (I) the prevention of sexual assault;
- (II) improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault; and

- (III) the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in—

- (i) promoting awareness about sexual assault;

- (ii) providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault; and

- (iii) increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized

and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 180—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 19 THROUGH APRIL 27, 2025, AS “NATIONAL PARK WEEK”

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. HUSTED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 180

Whereas, on March 1, 1872, Congress established Yellowstone National Park as the first national park for the enjoyment of the people of the United States;

Whereas, on August 25, 1916, Congress established the National Park Service with the mission to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations;

Whereas the National Park Service continues to protect and manage the majestic landscapes, hallowed battlefields, and iconic cultural and historical sites of the United States;

Whereas the units of the National Park System can be found in every State and many territories of the United States, and many of those units embody the rich natural and cultural heritage of the United States, reflect a unique national story through people and places, and offer countless opportunities for recreation, volunteerism, cultural exchange, education, civic engagement, and exploration;

Whereas, in 2024, the national parks of the United States attracted nearly 331,900,000 recreational visits, an increase of 2 percent over 2023 visitation levels;

Whereas visits and visitors to the national parks of the United States are important economic drivers, responsible for contributing \$55,600,000,000 in spending to the national economy in 2023;

Whereas the dedicated employees of the National Park Service carry out their mission to protect the units of the National Park System so that the vibrant culture, diverse wildlife, and priceless resources of these unique places will endure for perpetuity; and

Whereas the people of the United States have inherited the remarkable legacy of the

National Park System and are entrusted with the preservation of the National Park System throughout its second century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates the week of April 19 through April 27, 2025, as “National Park Week”; and

- (2) encourages the people of the United States and the world to responsibly visit, experience, recreate in, and support the treasured national parks of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 181—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 14 THROUGH APRIL 20, 2025, AS “NATIONAL OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WEEK”

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 181

Whereas there are more than 157,000 osteopathic physicians and nearly 40,000 osteopathic medical students in the United States;

Whereas osteopathic physicians and medical students train at high-caliber schools of osteopathic medicine across the United States, including in rural and underserved communities;

Whereas, in 1874, Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, introduced the principles of osteopathic medicine, emphasizing the idea that the body is a unit, and its structure and function are interrelated;

Whereas osteopathic physicians have made significant contributions to the healthcare system of the United States since the founding of the first osteopathic medical school in 1892;

Whereas the number of osteopathic physicians in the United States has increased by more than 70 percent in the past 10 years;

Whereas osteopathic medicine emphasizes a whole-person, patient-centric approach to healthcare, and osteopathic physicians play an important role in the healthcare system of the United States;

Whereas osteopathic physicians train and practice in all medical specialties and practice settings;

Whereas osteopathic physicians and medical students in the United States are dedicated to improving the health of their communities and delivering high-quality care for the body, mind, and spirit; and

Whereas osteopathic physicians practice in every State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates the week of April 14 through April 20, 2025, as “National Osteopathic Medicine Week”; and

- (2) acknowledges 150 years of osteopathic medicine;

- (3) recognizes the contributions of osteopathic physicians to the healthcare system of the United States; and

- (4) celebrates the role that colleges of osteopathic medicine play in training the next generation of physicians.

SENATE RESOLUTION 182—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. LUJÁN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 182

Whereas the week of April 7, 2025, is National Public Health Week;

Whereas, in 2025, the theme for National Public Health Week is “It Starts Here” and highlights the importance of making a difference in our homes and communities;

Whereas, in 2025, the goal of National Public Health Week is to recognize the contributions of public health in—

(1) improving the health of the people of the United States; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas, from 2019 to 2021, the life expectancy at birth for the population of the United States declined by 2.7 years, which is the biggest 2-year decline in life expectancy since 1921 to 1923;

Whereas many of the leading causes of death for individuals in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health challenges;

Whereas there are significant differences in the health status of individuals living in the healthiest States and those living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic disease, and the prevalence of infectious disease;

Whereas racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States continue to experience disparities in rates of illness and death, as compared with the entire population of the United States;

Whereas violence is a leading cause of premature death, and it is estimated that more than 8 individuals per hour die a violent death in the United States;

Whereas deaths from homicides cost the economy of the United States billions of dollars, and the violence of homicides can cause social and emotional distress, community trauma, injury, disability, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas 49,476 people died by suicide in 2022, with firearms being used in over 54 percent of suicides;

Whereas significant progress has been made in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, but there are still stark disparities in infant mortality by race, ethnicity, geography, and income, such as the fact that Black infants experience infant mortality at a rate twice that of White infants;

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries, with the rate of maternal mortality being 22.3 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022;

Whereas an estimated 80 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable;

Whereas, in 2022, American Indian or Alaskan Native mothers experienced maternal mortality at a rate twice that of White mothers, and Black mothers experienced maternal mortality at a rate 2.5 times that of White mothers;

Whereas, in 2022, there were an estimated 107,941 drug overdose deaths, an increase of 17 percent from 2020 and an increase of over double from 2015;

Whereas cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year;

Whereas the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes has decreased from 20.9 percent of the population in 2005 to 11.6 percent of the population in 2022;

Whereas e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among

youth since 2014, with 7.8 percent of high school students reporting e-cigarette use in 2024;

Whereas, in 2020, there were approximately 32,000 deaths in the United States due to exposure to particulate matter, 37 percent of which were directly related to fossil fuel burning;

Whereas, compared to 2000 to 2004, the number of heat-related deaths was approximately 74 percent more in 2017 to 2021;

Whereas voting helps shape the conditions in which people can be healthy;

Whereas good health is consistently positively associated with a higher likelihood of voter participation, but only 64 percent of eligible adults reported voting in the November 2024 election;

Whereas this year is the 30th anniversary of celebrating National Public Health Week, and in the past 30 years, significant strides have been made in public health, including—

(1) significantly decreasing the number of deaths due to HIV and AIDS, which peaked in 1994 at 49,095 AIDS-related deaths in the United States, with antiretroviral therapy now ensuring most people with HIV can live normal lifespans and prevention tools like PrEP significantly reducing transmission;

(2) decreasing smoking rates, which were as high as 25.5 percent among United States adults in 1994 and have now fallen to 11.4 percent due to comprehensive smoke-free policies, public awareness campaigns, and taxation policies;

(3) decreasing childhood mortality, which was at a rate of 13.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1994 and has now fallen to 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births due to better health care access, vaccines, and nutrition;

(4) increasing health insurance coverage, with 15 percent of people in the United States uninsured in 1994, which has now improved due to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) expanding Medicaid and private insurance coverage, covering more than 35,000,000 additional people, and lowering the uninsured rate to 8.6 percent;

(5) increasing mental health awareness and treatment, with 40 percent of people with mental health conditions being untreated in 1994, which has improved due to increased awareness, parity laws, and integration into primary care, resulting in expanded access to mental health services and reduced treatment gaps;

(6) decreasing lead poisoning, with 4.4 percent of United States children having elevated blood lead levels in 1994, which has now fallen to less than 0.5 percent due to policies banning leaded gasoline and reducing lead in paint, pipes, and water systems;

(7) decreasing antibiotic misuse, which was rampant in 1994, fueled antibiotic resistance with no programs to combat it, and is now being addressed by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Antibiotic Resistance Solutions Initiative that champions antibiotic stewardship;

(8) decreasing the health impacts of climate change, as evidenced by the rising heat-related deaths that were underrecognized in 1994 that are now being mitigated by actions such as public health campaigns and cooling centers, as well as frameworks like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 21st Conference of Parties in Paris, France, adopted December 12, 2015 (commonly referred to as the “Paris Agreement”); and

(9) increasing pandemic preparedness, which was in its infancy in 1994 and has now grown, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, spurring significant advancements in mRNA technology, global vaccine deployment, and increased investments in stockpiles and global surveillance;

Whereas proposed cuts to Medicaid will harm people seeking health care services and inhibit public health;

Whereas the restructuring of the Department of Health and Human Services will be a step backwards in the provision of public health, including—

(1) reducing the Department of Health and Human Services workforce from 82,000 to 62,000 employees; and

(2) combining the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health into 1 new agency named the Administration for a Healthy America;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health has faced staff and funding cuts, impeding—

(1) progress towards advancing basic science and improving understanding human biology and disease;

(2) the development of therapeutics and devices to treat human disease and pathogenic infections;

(3) workforce development and the bolstering of scientific education and training; and

(4) global competitiveness in scientific research and development;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has faced staff cuts and paused critical programs, limiting the ability of the United States to—

(1) respond to the ongoing measles outbreaks in at least 4 States, including Texas, New Mexico, Ohio, and Kansas;

(2) respond to future infectious disease outbreaks, which requires robust response from public health experts, scientists, and providers;

(3) protect the most vulnerable communities of the United States, such as children, the elderly, and the immunocompromised, from dangerous, life-threatening infections; and

(4) strengthen our national security against potential attacks using bioweapons;

Whereas the elimination of the United States Agency for International Development endangers the public health of all people of the United States;

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate public policymakers and public health professionals on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in disease prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in—

(1) the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

(2) health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including—

(1) disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) natural disasters, such as wildfires, flooding, and severe storms;

(3) other disasters, such as disasters caused by human activity; and

(4) public health emergencies;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health sector, including city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health outcomes;

Whereas, in communities across the United States, individuals are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

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

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in—

(A) preventing and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing measles outbreak;

(B) mitigating the short-term and long-term impacts of infectious disease outbreaks on the health and wellness of individuals in the United States;

(C) addressing social and other determinants of health, including health disparities experienced by minority populations; and

(D) improving the overall health of individuals and communities in the United States;

(4) encourages increased efforts and resources to—

(A) improve the health of individuals in the United States; and

(B) make the United States, in 1 generation, the healthiest Nation in the world by—

(i) providing greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(ii) strengthening the public health system and workforce in the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health across the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 8 a.m., to receive testimony in open and closed session.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10:10 a.m., to conduct an open session hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10 a.m., to consider pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2025 first quarter Mass Mailing report is Friday, April 25, 2025. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm or e-mailed to OPR_MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 175, S. Res. 176, S. Res. 177, S. Res. 178, S. Res. 179, and S. Res. 180.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS AWARDED UNDER THE 'SIX TRIPLE EIGHT' CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2021

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 22, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 22) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medals awarded under the 'Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 22) was agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I lock in and ask consent to recess the Senate until later this evening, I would also say, for the benefit of my colleagues, that we are scheduled to have four votes starting at 1 a.m. In order to expedite those votes, we are going to make them 15-minute votes, so Members should be prepared to get here for the 1 o'clock vote and then proceed quickly through the remaining votes in 15-minute increments.

RECESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 1 a.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:50 p.m., recessed until 1 a.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HAGERTY).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION—Continued

NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. JOHN D. CAINE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the nomination of Lt. Gen. Dan Caine to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I am glad that we will soon be voting on this nominee.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs is one of, if not the, most important positions in the U.S. military. The Chairman serves as the principal military adviser to the President, the National Security Council, the Secretary of Defense, and Congress. They are expected