

Illinois, opened its doors to 6 students in 1901 as an experiment to accommodate those who wanted to pursue a college education without leaving their community;

Whereas the term “community college” was popularized by the President’s Commission on Higher Education in 1947 in recognition of the community-centered nature of this emerging sector of institutions;

Whereas local community and educational leaders throughout the United States developed community colleges at a dramatic pace over several decades to meet their people’s needs for educational and economic opportunity;

Whereas today 1,026 community colleges, including 921 public, 36 tribal, and 69 independent colleges, serve 10,200,000 credit and noncredit students;

Whereas public community colleges are an affordable option, charging an average annual tuition and fees for in-district students of \$3,990, have an average student age of 27, and serve students who often are working, low-income, parents, veterans, or the first in their family to go to college;

Whereas community colleges are the primary educational institution serving workforce development needs in the United States and are responding to current economic conditions by educating professionals in fields ranging from the semiconductor and construction industries to nursing and other health care professions;

Whereas community colleges enrolled 43.1 percent of all undergraduate students during the 2022–2023 academic year;

Whereas the median distance from the home of a student attending community college to the community college is only 10 miles;

Whereas 82 percent of public high schools offer dual enrollment programs, allowing their students to take college classes, usually at their local community college, and offering them an opportunity to save time and money in college and jumpstart career exploration;

Whereas alumni of the community colleges of the United States generated \$898,500,000,000 in added income to the national economy in fiscal year 2020, equal to 4.1 percent of the total gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas every dollar of public funding for community colleges returns \$6.80 in tax revenue generated; and

Whereas celebrating “Community College Month” in April 2025 provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the value of institutions that have long supported the prosperity, competitiveness, and community vitality of the United States and that will be important to the economic future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the significance of “Community College Month” in April 2025 as an opportunity to celebrate the over 1,000 community colleges throughout the United States that serve local and regional needs and strengthen the economy of the United States.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 203—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2025 AS “RENEWABLE FUELS MONTH” TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT RENEWABLE FUELS PLAY IN REDUCING CARBON IMPACTS, LOWERING FUEL PRICES FOR CONSUMERS, SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES, AND LESSENING RELIANCE ON FOREIGN ADVERSARIES

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 203

Whereas the United States is the largest producer of biofuels in the world, which contributes to the domestic economy, creates jobs, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas ethanol is a renewable fuel made of biomass from plant materials;

Whereas, in 2024, more than 55,810 jobs in the United States were directly associated with the ethanol industry, with an additional 258,089 indirect and induced jobs supported across all sectors of the economy;

Whereas the ethanol industry created \$28,300,000,000 in household income and contributed more than \$53,000,000,000 to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas ethanol and feed co-product production provide a valuable market for United States corn, as a typical dry mill ethanol plant adds nearly \$2 of additional value, or 55 percent, to every bushel of corn processed;

Whereas ethanol use reduces greenhouse gas emissions by between 44 and 52 percent compared to gasoline, and by displacing hydrocarbon substances like aromatics in gasoline, ethanol also helps reduce emissions of air toxins, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, and exhaust hydrocarbons;

Whereas, in 2024, ethanol played a vital role in bolstering the energy independence of the United States by supplementing nearly 630,000,000 barrels of imported crude oil;

Whereas, in 2024, ethanol exports reached a record 1,930,000,000 gallons, an increase of over 500,000,000 gallons compared to 2023;

Whereas  $\frac{1}{3}$  of every bushel processed by an ethanol plant is used to make distillers grains, one of the most efficient and desirable animal feeds available;

Whereas biodiesel is a drop-in replacement for petroleum-based diesel fuel that is produced from renewable resources such as recycled cooking oil, soybean oil, distillers corn oil, canola oil, and animal fats;

Whereas renewable diesel is an advanced biofuel, made from the same feedstocks as biodiesel, that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, while meeting the same standard specification for diesel fuels as petroleum-based diesel;

Whereas biofuel production uses more than 1,000,000,000 pounds of soybean oil per month and generates increasing amounts of soybean meal for feed markets, driving a 30 percent increase in crush capacity across the United States;

Whereas the biodiesel and renewable diesel sectors generated a total economic impact of \$42,400,000,000, supporting 107,400 United States jobs and contributing \$5,800,000,000 in wages;

Whereas biodiesel and renewable diesel can be used in existing diesel engines without modification and are available throughout the United States;

Whereas advanced biofuels like biodiesel and renewable diesel reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent compared to petroleum-based diesel;

Whereas biodiesel emits up to 80 percent less particulate matter than petroleum-based diesel, improving air quality and health outcomes;

Whereas the production of biodiesel and renewable diesel adds to the total domestic fuel supply, reducing the price of all diesel fuel at the pump;

Whereas, without the renewable fuel standard helping to drive production of biodiesel and renewable diesel, the value of soybeans grown by farmers in the United States would decrease by 10 percent;

Whereas sustainable aviation fuel is made from renewable biomass and waste resources and can deliver the performance of petroleum-based jet fuel; and

Whereas sustainable aviation fuel can be blended with conventional jet fuel and the use of sustainable or blended aviation fuel requires no infrastructure or equipment changes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2025 as “Renewable Fuels Month”; and

(2) recognizes—

(A) the important role renewable fuels play in reducing the carbon impact of the United States;

(B) the ability of renewable fuels to lower fuel prices for consumers;

(C) the support to rural communities that renewable fuel industries provide; and

(D) the opportunity that the production of renewable fuels provides to lessen the reliance of the United States on foreign adversaries.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 204—RECOGNIZING ESCALATING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING INCREASING HARM TO JOURNALISTS REPORTING IN CONFLICT ZONES AND UNDER REPRESSIVE REGIMES, REAFFIRMING THE VITAL ROLE THAT A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS PLAYS IN UPHOLDING DEMOCRACY, FOSTERING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, AND KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED, AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN COMMEMORATION OF “WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY” ON MAY 3, 2025

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 204

Whereas freedom of the press is foundational to American democracy and has been enshrined in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and in various State constitutions;

Whereas a free and independent press around the world supports United States foreign policy goals of countering authoritarianism and promoting democratic governance by refuting propaganda and enhancing public accountability, transparency, and participation in civil society;

Whereas a robust independent press plays a key role in exposing and refuting malign influence campaigns used by authoritarian governments, including the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the censorship, victimization, and killing of journalists around the world, particularly in war zones, has profound implications for the ability of the public, including Americans, to be informed about conflicts with local, regional, and global ramifications and other issues;

Whereas the United States has advanced press freedom globally, including by leading the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in Paris on December 10, 1948, and states, in Article 19, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.";

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the third day of May of each year to be "World Press Freedom Day"—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;

(2) to evaluate press freedom around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas Congress has passed legislation supporting press freedom abroad, including—

(1) the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-166), which expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices published by the Department of State; and

(2) the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328), which has been used to place targeted visa and economic sanctions on individuals for their roles in the targeted killings of journalists;

Whereas in 2021, in an effort to combat attacks against journalists, the Department of State adopted the Khashoggi Ban pursuant to section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(C)), which imposes visa restrictions on individuals who, acting on behalf of a foreign government, are believed to have been directly engaged in serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities, including activities that suppress, harass, surveil, threaten, or harm journalists, activists, or other persons perceived to be dissidents for their work;

Whereas the United States Government has—

(1) supported broadcast journalism around the world to provide news to millions of people living under authoritarian regimes; and

(2) provided emergency assistance to journalists facing immediate risks to their lives as a result of their reporting;

Whereas 2024 marked the 19th consecutive year of decline in global freedom, with an estimated 40 percent of the global population living in countries deemed "Not Free";

Whereas 2024 marked the 14th consecutive year of decline in global internet freedom, with people in at least 56 countries who are facing legal repercussions for expressing themselves online and people in 43 countries who are facing physical assaults or death for their online commentary;

Whereas infringement on freedom of expression, including media freedom, has been one of the key drivers of broader declines in global freedom during the last 50 years, including attacks and prosecutions against

journalists, pressure on media outlets, repressive regulatory and legal frameworks, internet shutdowns, unlawful efforts to undermine strong encryption, and blocks on online sources of information;

Whereas there are alarming indications about growing divisions resulting from the spread of authoritarian information campaigns with the potential to weaken democratic societies;

Whereas punishments against women journalists are increasing disproportionately, with 30 percent more women journalists being held in prison in 2022 than in the previous year, and with most of the longest prison sentences handed down against journalists in 2023 given to women;

Whereas journalists and media workers are murdered, imprisoned, attacked, and harassed around the world, including—

(1) at least 124 journalists and media workers who were killed worldwide during 2024 and at least 15 journalists who have been killed during the first 4 months of 2025;

(2) approximately 361 journalists who were imprisoned during 2024, with 50 of these journalists imprisoned by the People's Republic of China;

(3) between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2024, impunity for the killing of journalists persisted, with nearly 80 percent of the 241 journalist murders during this period occurring without accountability; and

(4) journalists and media outlets targeted by government actors with sophisticated spyware products that pose a severe risk to their privacy and the security of their sources and families;

Whereas more than 375 writers and public intellectuals, including columnists and editorial journalists, were imprisoned across 40 different countries during 2024; and

Whereas United States journalists have been killed, injured, and imprisoned while reporting abroad, including—

(1) Christopher Allen, who was killed while covering the conflict in South Sudan on August 26, 2017, and for whom there has been no credible investigation to pursue justice after nearly 8 years;

(2) Austin Tice, who was kidnaped in Syria and has been held in captivity since August 13, 2012;

(3) Brent Renaud, who was killed by Russian forces while covering the war in Ukraine on March 13, 2022;

(4) Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed by Israeli forces on May 11, 2022, while reporting in the West Bank;

(5) Evan Gershkovich, who was wrongfully detained in Russia on baseless charges of espionage from March 2023 to August 2024;

(6) Alsu Kurmasheva who was wrongfully detained in Russia on bogus charges of failure to register as a foreign agent from October 2023 to August 2024; and

(7) Dylan Collins, a journalist at Agence France-Presse (AFP), who was injured in an attack on a group of journalists in southern Lebanon by Israeli forces on October 13, 2023: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies and democratic governance;

(B) contributes to an informed civil society and government accountability;

(C) helps to expose corruption;

(D) enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(E) disseminates information that is essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) expresses concerns about threats to the exercise of freedom of expression, including by the press, around the world;

(3) recognizes and commends journalism's role in providing trusted, accurate, and time-

ly information and in holding governments and leaders accountable to citizens;

(4) recognizes the indispensable role of journalists and media outlets in informing voters and the international community about elections in multiple countries worldwide in 2025;

(5) pays tribute to journalists who made tremendous sacrifices, including the loss of their lives, in the pursuit of truth and justice;

(6) condemns all actions around the world that suppress press freedom and endanger the safety of journalists;

(7) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all wrongfully detained journalists;

(8) reaffirms the centrality of press freedom to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(9) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to press freedom and journalist safety, on the basis of the protections for freedom of the press afforded the American people under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(B) to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against American journalists;

(C) to support transparent investigations and efforts to ensure accountability for attacks against journalists of other nationalities; and

(D) to promote the respect and protection of press freedom around the world.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, COLLECTIVELY, TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY RANGERS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 12

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

### SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR CEREMONY TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY RANGERS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on June 26, 2025, for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medal awarded under the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II Act (Public Law 117-132; 31 U.S.C. 5111 note).

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.