

S. Res. 217. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. does not have the confidence of the Senate or of the American people to faithfully carry out the duties of his office; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 93

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 93, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 304

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 530

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 530, a bill to repeal a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify Reid Vapor Pressure requirements and to provide for the return of certain retired credits, and for other purposes.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to establish the CCP Initiative program, and for other purposes.

S. 739

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) were added

as cosponsors of S. 739, a bill to amend title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act with respect to flexibility and funding for the World Trade Center Health Program.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 821

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to provide for increased reporting regarding Department of State Taiwan guidelines.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1241, a bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation if the Government of the Russian Federation refuses to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine, violates any such agreement, or initiates another military invasion of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 1561

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1561, a bill to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize

notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1630

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1630, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide more opportunities for mothers to succeed, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1663

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1663, a bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1689

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1689, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national outreach and education strategy and reach to improve behavioral health among the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander population, while addressing stigma against behavioral health treatment amongst such population.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1690, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase funding for Social Security and Medicare.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide premium support for certain plans of insurance, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 143

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 143, a resolution supporting the designation of May 29, 2025, as "Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day" to raise awareness

around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness.

S. RES. 195

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 195, a resolution requesting information on El Salvador's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 208

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 208, a resolution supporting the designation of May 10, 2025, as "National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1709. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act. This legislation would improve patient care and increase nurse retention by setting mandatory minimum registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios.

The bill would require hospitals to annually develop safe staffing plans that meet the bill's mandated minimum registered nurse staffing ratios and provide for additional staffing based on individual patient care needs. Further, the bill requires hospitals to post notices on minimum ratios and maintain records on registered nurse and other staffing.

The bill would also provide whistleblower protections, including administrative complaint process and cause of action, for nurses who speak out against assignments that are unsafe for the patient or nurse.

For each additional surgical patient in registered nurse's workload above the baseline nurse-to-patient ratio of 1 to 4, the likelihood of patient death within 30 days increases by 7 percent. Studies have also found that registered nurse staffing levels in hospitals that serve communities of color are often lower, contributing to disparities in care. Setting a single standard of nursing care across hospitals will improve outcomes for patients of color, including reduced readmission rates, increased satisfaction, and better obstetrical outcomes.

There are no Federal regulations on the number of patients a registered nurse can care for at one time in U.S. hospitals. As a result, registered nurses are consistently required to care for more patients than is safe, compromising patient care and negatively impacting patient outcomes.

This legislation would improve patient care and increase nurse retention by setting mandatory minimum registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios.

I would like to thank Senator Merkley for coleading this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as soon as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 215—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF MAY 12, 2025, THROUGH MAY 16, 2025, AS "VETERANS AFFAIRS RESEARCH WEEK" TO CELEBRATE THE RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS VETERANS, PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND INDIVIDUALS AROUND THE WORLD

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 215

Whereas, in 1925, the Veterans' Bureau, the predecessor to the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this preamble as the "VA"), established the Medical Research Section, marking 2025 as the 100-year anniversary of VA research;

Whereas Dr. Philip B. Matz served as the first Research Chief of the Veterans' Bureau, advocating for hospital-based research directly related to improving the clinical conditions of veterans;

Whereas, in 1925, a system of diagnostic clinics with links to outside consultants was established by the Veterans' Bureau, evidencing the long connection that VA research has had to industry and innovation;

Whereas VA-affiliated nonprofit research and education corporations play a critical role in facilitating collaborations between VA research and industry, enabling VA investigators to participate in public-private partnerships to amplify their groundbreaking research efforts;

Whereas, in 1933, the Tumor Research Laboratory at the Hines Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, became the first research laboratory to receive designated funds from the VA Central Office, leading to Dr. Robert Schrek identifying the connection between sun exposure and skin cancer;

Whereas VA research has led to medical breakthroughs and lifesaving procedures used by veterans and non-veterans across the United States and around the world, including the development of the concept of computed tomography scanning, the first effective treatments for tuberculosis, development of an implantable cardiac pacemaker, the first large clinical trials of hearing aids, the first successful transplantation of a liver, and many others;

Whereas research on Gila monster metabolism at the Bronx VA Medical Center created breakthroughs leading to the development of GLP-one agonist medications, which is broadly considered one of the most consequential health advances of the 21st century;

Whereas VA research in the field of mental health and the 10 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers of the VA have revolutionized the treatment of several mental, behavioral, and neuropsychological conditions, including leading research in fields like post-traumatic stress, substance use, major depressive disorder, serious mental illness, and many others;

Whereas VA research facilities across the United States employ thousands of top-tier researchers and innovators who, as of 2024, conduct over 7,000 active research projects in numerous disciplines;

Whereas VA Puget Sound and their nonprofit affiliate, the Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research, has been a nationally renowned research facility for over 75 years, housing over 750 continuing research projects in 2024 in numerous disciplines;

Whereas the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to VA researchers, including Dr. Andrew Schally, Dr. Rosalyn Yalow, and Dr. Ferid Murad, for their vital contributions to scientific knowledge;

Whereas, in 2025, during the 100-year anniversary of VA Research, the VA Office of Research and Development is recognizing researchers for their scholarly excellence and commitment to improving the lives of Veterans, including—

(1) Dr. Jean Beckham, VA Durham Health Care System;

(2) Dr. Robert Clark, South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio, TX;

(3) Dr. Daniel Hall, VA Pittsburgh Health Care System;

(4) Dr. Robert Kirsch, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center;

(5) Dr. Vincent Marconi, Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center; and

(6) Dr. Arlan Richardson, Oklahoma City VA Health Care System; and

Whereas, May 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025, is the appropriate week to celebrate 100 years of VA research through "Veteran Affairs Research Week": Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and celebrates the 100-year anniversary of Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this resolution as the "VA") research, representing a century of lifesaving and cutting-edge research conducted by the VA which improves the lives of veterans, people in the United States, and individuals around the world;

(2) applauds the spirit of inquiry and commitment to scientific excellence of VA researchers and their affiliates, who ensure that veterans receive the most up-to-date, effective care and maintain the leadership and competitiveness of the United States in scientific research and healthcare;

(3) recognizes the critical importance of supporting VA research through robust funding, public support, and Federal cooperation;

(4) acknowledges that VA research facilities and their affiliates contribute significantly to the economies of their local communities; and

(5) supports the designation of the week of May 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025, as "Veteran Affairs Research Week".