

S. 1751

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1751, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a New World screwworm fly rearing facility, and for other purposes.

S. 1779

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit State standards relating to the control of emissions from existing locomotives and engines used in locomotives, and for other purposes.

S. 1810

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 1821

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1821, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax on income from litigation which is received by third-party entities that provided financing for such litigation.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures to prevent death, injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 1827

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1827, a bill to authorize the expedited removal of aliens who are criminal gang members, members of foreign terrorist organizations, or have been convicted of certain specified crimes.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 212, a resolution affirming the acceptable outcome of any nuclear deal between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 240

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 240, a resolution affirming that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are fundamental values of the United States and emphasizing the ongoing need to address discrimination and inequality in the workplace, pre-K through 12th grade and higher edu-

cation systems, government programs, the military, and our society.

AMENDMENT NO. 2246

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2246 intended to be proposed to S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1862. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand and clarify the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Drug Price Negotiation Program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1862

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Optimizing Research Progress Hope And New Cures Act" or the "ORPHAN Cures Act".

#### SEC. 2. EXPANDING AND CLARIFYING THE EXCLUSION FOR ORPHAN DRUGS UNDER THE DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION PROGRAM.

Section 1192(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320f-1(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) TREATMENT OF FORMER ORPHAN DRUGS.—In calculating the amount of time that has elapsed with respect to the approval of a drug or licensure of a biological product under subparagraph (A)(ii) and subparagraph (B)(ii), respectively, the Secretary shall not take into account any period during which such drug or product was a drug described in paragraph (3)(A).”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(A)—  
(A) by striking “only one rare disease or condition” and inserting “one or more rare diseases or conditions”; and

(B) by striking “such disease or condition” and inserting “one or more rare diseases or conditions (as such term is defined in section 526(a)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act)”.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1903. A bill to prohibit changes to Medicare and Medicaid in reconciliation; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, critical programs for Americans from all walks of life are under threat right now: Medicare and Medicaid. The Trump administration and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are working to pass partisan legislation that would make massive cuts to Medicaid. Indeed, the House of Representatives passed their bill last night, voting for the largest cut ever to healthcare for working-class Americans by a single

vote. That is why I am introducing the Protect Medicare and Medicaid Act of 2025 with my colleagues Senators HEINRICH and MARKEY.

Under the budget reconciliation process, Republicans can ram through massive cuts to Medicaid or Medicare by a simple majority in the U.S. Senate. It shouldn't be possible to use this fast-track process to strip away the healthcare coverage of millions of Americans. Regrettably, that is what Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are doing.

Senators who served before me had the wisdom to say that this process is too partisan to touch a program like Social Security, which serves as a lifeline for retirees and has worked to reduce poverty among the elderly, and therefore exempted Social Security from the budget reconciliation process.

The bill I am introducing today is very simple. It would exempt Medicare and Medicaid from budget reconciliation, alongside Social Security. These programs are too important to fall victim to partisan attacks. Medicare and Medicaid combined provide health insurance to well over 100 million Americans, providing nursing home care to seniors and those with disabilities, health insurance for children and pregnant women, and countless others. Without these programs, millions of Americans would lose insurance, go bankrupt, or both. One party should not be able to unilaterally dismantle these programs. This bill would prevent that from happening. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this effort to protect the healthcare coverage of tens of millions of our fellow Americans.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1904. A bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act to require certain certifications from persons provided indemnification or compensation by the Secretary of Agriculture for poultry flocks affected by the highly pathogenic avian influenza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Ending Taxpayer Support for Big Egg Producers Act. This legislation would help ensure that Federal funding intended to fight the avian flu outbreak is used responsibly to eradicate the disease and lower the cost of eggs, and does not go to large or highly profitable companies.

I have expressed concerns to both Democratic and Republican administrations that major egg producers may be taking advantage of the avian flu outbreak to engage in price gouging. The five largest U.S. egg producers control roughly half of the country's egg market, limiting choices for American consumers. I am glad that the Department of Justice has opened a probe into this potential anticompetitive behavior.

The fact is, egg prices remain high as companies continue to reel in profits.

One company, Cal-Maine Foods, recently announced in an SEC filing that it is spending up to \$500 million to buy back shares for the benefit of the founder's family. Cal-Maine also recently reported quarterly profits of \$509 million, more than three times what it made in the same period a year ago.

Despite its tremendous profits, last year Cal Maine received \$44 million in USDA indemnity payments to compensate for bird deaths due to the avian flu outbreak. It should be uncontroversial that a company that has earmarked hundreds of millions of dollars of cash on-hand and expected earnings for stock buybacks also has the resources to bear losses and implement biosecurity measures without taxpayer assistance.

There are also some very large private companies that have benefited from government assistance under this program. While these companies do not have access to liquidity from the public markets, their size and national scale provide them with greater access to funding from banks and other lenders on terms that are more favorable than those available to smaller private companies that operate regionally or locally. Further, any company that is private-equity backed surely has similar access to funding through the sponsor of the investment fund that owns the company.

This legislation would ensure that taxpayer funds to support egg producers will be made available to publicly traded or private equity-backed companies only if they will not pay dividends or buy back stock. To receive taxpayer assistance, these companies also must certify that they cannot access alternative sources of financing. There are strong penalties, including criminal liability, for falsifying these certifications.

As egg prices remain high, and the Trump administration limits Federal resources at the Department of Agriculture, we must ensure that these limited resources are used effectively to combat the avian flu and help producers who need it most, rather than highly profitable companies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 246—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CALLING ON ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PAUL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr.

WYDEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MORENO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MOODY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 246

Whereas "Jewish American Heritage Month" has its origins in 1980, when Congress enacted the Joint Resolution entitled "Joint Resolution to authorize and request the President to issue a proclamation designating April 21 through April 28, 1980, as 'Jewish Heritage Week'", approved April 24, 1980 (Public Law 96-237; 94 Stat. 338);

Whereas, on April 24, 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the proclamation for "Jewish Heritage Week", and in that proclamation, President Carter spoke about the bountiful contributions made by the Jewish people to the culture and history of the United States;

Whereas Congress has played a central role in recognizing "Jewish American Heritage Month" since the Senate and House of Representatives passed resolutions in 2005 and 2006, respectively, urging the President to proclaim the national observation of a month recognizing the Jewish-American community;

Whereas, since 2006, Presidents Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden have all issued proclamations for "Jewish American Heritage Month", which celebrates Jewish Americans and encourages all people of the United States to learn more about Jewish heritage and the contributions of Jewish people throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States celebrate the rich history of Jewish people in the United States and the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to society in the American Colonies and United States;

Whereas the United States has long served as a haven for Jewish people escaping oppression in search of liberty, justice, and tolerance;

Whereas the Jewish-American community dates back to 1654, when a group of 23 Jewish people, fleeing persecution at the hands of the Portuguese Inquisition, fled Brazil and found refuge in what is now New York City;

Whereas Jewish Americans have established deep roots in communities across the United States and served their neighbors and the United States as loyal and patriotic citizens, always grateful for the safe harbor that the United States has provided for them;

Whereas the Jewish-American community has grown to over 6,000,000 people, representing approximately 2 percent of the population of the United States in 2024;

Whereas Jewish Americans have served in government and the military, won Nobel prizes, led universities and corporations, advanced medicine and philanthropy, created and performed in enduring works of performing and visual art, written great novels, become emblems of justice as members of the Supreme Court, and so much more;

Whereas, since Hamas' deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, antisemitism in the United States has reached record highs with incidents targeting Jews and those who are perceived as Jewish;

Whereas, according to the American Jewish Committee, 77 percent of American Jews say they feel less safe as a Jewish person in the United States because of the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks;

Whereas, according to the American Jewish Committee, almost 70 percent of Jewish adults report experiencing antisemitism online, including on social media;

Whereas, according to Hillel International, 83 percent of Jewish college students have experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism since the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attacks;

Whereas, in 2024, the Anti-Defamation League recorded 9,354 antisemitic incidents in the United States, which equals an average of 25 incidents per day and represents a 344 percent increase in antisemitic incidents over the previous 5 years and an increase of nearly 900 percent over the previous decade;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation has aggregated 2023 hate crime data showing the highest number of single-bias anti-Jewish hate crime incidents ever recorded;

Whereas one of the most effective ways to combat antisemitism and hate is through increasing education and awareness about the contributions Jewish Americans have made to the United States through the arts, entertainment, science and technology, the military, the government, business, culinary traditions, and other fields; and

Whereas, as the strength of a society can be measured by how that society protects its minority populations and celebrates their contributions, it is altogether fitting for the United States to once again mark the month of May as "Jewish American Heritage Month": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Jewish American Heritage Month as a time to celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to the society and culture of the United States;

(2) calls on elected officials, faith leaders, and civil society leaders to condemn and counter all acts of antisemitism;

(3) calls on elected officials and State and local leaders to educate the public on the contributions of the Jewish-American community and uplift Jewish stories and voices; and

(4) takes all possible steps to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of American Jews in all aspects of their lives, including at the workplace, college and university campuses, synagogues, and home.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 247—DESIGNATING MAY 2025 AS "NATIONAL WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS MONTH"

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 247

Whereas wildfires across the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the United States territories have increased in scale, complexity, and severity, fire seasons have lengthened in many parts of the United States to encompass the entire year, and wildfire has become a threat in regions of the United States that have little or no history of wildfire;

Whereas, in the United States from 2015 to 2024, an average of 62,435 wildfires burned, consuming on average a total of 7,553,704 acres, which is 705,612 acres above the previous 10-year average;

Whereas, in the United States from January 1 to May 2, 2025, 22,759 wildfires burned 988,319 acres, which is above both the 10-year average occurrence of 15,639 wildfires and the average 10-year burned area of 951,468 acres;

Whereas, from May 2025 to August 2025, over 60 percent of States in the United States are predicted to be at risk for significant wildfire events, and over 50 percent of