

(H) to honor the Federal trust obligations to Indian Tribes and Native Americans; and

(I) to provide global leadership in addressing the biodiversity crisis; and

(2) the national biodiversity strategy described in paragraph (1) should include direction on—

(A) achieving the national goal of conserving not less than 30 percent of the land and waters of the United States to protect biodiversity and address climate change by 2030 (referred to in this resolution as “30x30”), supporting international efforts to achieve the same goal on a global scale, and setting other goals necessary to reduce the threats to biodiversity as indicated by the best available scientific information;

(B) taking action to protect threatened, endangered, and at-risk species from further imperilment or extinction;

(C) climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for biodiversity conservation, including—

(i) leading international agreements to combat climate change, including the decision of the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted in Paris December 12, 2015 (commonly known as the “Paris Agreement”);

(ii) establishing climate refugia and climate corridors for conservation of species affected by climate change; and

(iii) the rapid build-out of renewable energy;

(D) reviewing existing laws, plans, programs, and strategies that are relevant to addressing threats to biodiversity to assess how the laws, plans, programs, and strategies can contribute to the objectives of this resolution and, as necessary, recommending new laws, plans, programs, and strategies;

(E) ensuring integration of biodiversity protection across the activities of the Federal Government, including foreign policy and foreign assistance;

(F) advancing conservation in collaboration with State and Tribal governments and on private lands through incentives, funding, technical support, and partnerships;

(G) incorporating indigenous knowledge and practices to support conservation and biodiversity, safeguarding the rights and needs of indigenous peoples, and ensuring fulfillment of the Federal trust obligations that apply to government decisionmaking that impacts the interests of Native Americans;

(H) ensuring equitable access to nature, inclusive decisionmaking on biodiversity protection, and just allocations of resources to achieve the goals of this resolution, including with respect to systematically and deliberately targeted populations such as communities of color, low-income communities, and Native American communities;

(I) establishing regular monitoring and reporting on the status of biodiversity in the United States and globally, including a quadrennial assessment reported to Congress and the people of the United States;

(J) prioritizing programs to identify knowledge gaps and accelerate research and development of new conservation solutions across sectors;

(K) assessing and integrating the role of the United States in international biodiversity, ecosystem services, and nature conservation in—

(i) national security and foreign policy strategies, including in international development policies, planning and finance, diplomatic dialogues, and trade agreements; and

(ii) advancing global adoption of and progress toward 30x30; and

(L) funding existing conservation programs, developing new funding sources, and reducing subsidies that harm biodiversity in

amounts commensurate with the scale of the harm to biodiversity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 249—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2025 AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 249

Whereas millions of people in the United States face mental health challenges and have unmet mental health needs;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental health disorders are chronic conditions, and, without proper diagnosis and treatment, children can face problems at home and in school, which can interfere with the future development of those children;

Whereas more resources should be dedicated in schools to the prevention, early detection, and treatment of mental health disorders in children;

Whereas childhood depression is more likely to persist into adulthood if it is left untreated;

Whereas it is important that the United States provides the necessary funding and resources to reach children and youth early on in life;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital technologies, such as social media;

Whereas there has been a great concern about the impact of social media on the mental health of children and youth;

Whereas social media exposes children to bullying, depression, anxiety, and self-harm;

Whereas there is a strong need to further understand and deter any negative impact of social media on children and youth;

Whereas suicide is a significant public health issue that can have an enduring impact on individuals and their communities;

Whereas additional resources should be dedicated to the prevention of suicide in the United States;

Whereas veterans are more likely to experience mental health challenges than civilians;

Whereas it is important that the United States provides additional funding and resources to support veterans with mental health needs; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe May 2025 as “Mental Health Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2025 as “Mental Health Awareness Month” to remove the stigma associated with mental illness and place emphasis on scientific findings regarding mental health recovery;

(2) declares mental health a national priority;

(3) supports increasing access to mental health services;

(4) recognizes that mental well-being is equally as important as physical well-being for the citizens, communities, schools, businesses, and economy of the United States;

(5) applauds the coalescing of national, State, local, medical, and faith-based organizations in—

(A) working to promote public awareness of mental health; and

(B) providing critical information and support to individuals and families affected by mental illness; and

(6) encourages all individuals to draw on “Mental Health Awareness Month” as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness, ensure access to appropriate coverage and services, and support overall quality of life for those living with mental illness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 250—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 250

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 30 years ago—

(1) to bring foster care issues to the forefront;

(2) to highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) to recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 368,530 children living in foster care in the United States;

Whereas there were approximately 186,602 youths that entered the foster care system in 2022 in the United States, while more than 108,877 youths were awaiting adoption at the end of 2022;

Whereas approximately 61,585 children entered foster care in 2022 due to parental drug abuse;

Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents, and foster parents provide physical care, emotional support, and education advocacy, and are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas children in foster care who are placed with relatives, compared to children placed with non-relatives—

(1) have more stability, including fewer changes in placements;

(2) have more positive perceptions of their placements;

(3) are more likely to be placed with their siblings; and

(4) demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary

to reduce the number of children that enter or re-enter the foster care system;

Whereas approximately 18,538 youths aged out of foster care in 2022 without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas youth who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 22.6 months;

Whereas approximately one-third of children in foster care experience more than 2 placements while in care, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability, with a study showing that 75 percent of foster youth experienced an unscheduled school change during a school year, compared to less than 40 percent of youth not in foster care;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas 30 percent of children in foster care are taking not less than 1 anti-psychotic medication, and 34 percent of those children are not receiving adequate treatment planning or medication monitoring;

Whereas, due to heavy caseloads and limited resources, the average annual turnover rate is between 20 percent and 40 percent for child welfare workers;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and post-permanency programs to ensure that more children and older youth in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 232), which provided new investments in prevention and family reunification services to help more families stay together and ensure more children are in safe, loving, and permanent homes;

Whereas Federal legislation during the past 4 decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272; 94 Stat. 500), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89; 111 Stat. 2115), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351; 122 Stat. 3949), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34; 125 Stat. 369), the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183; 128 Stat. 1919), and the Supporting America's Children and Families Act (Public Law 118-258; 138 Stat. 2947) provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas May 2025 is an appropriate month to designate as "National Foster Care Month" to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the child welfare workforce, foster parents, the advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication, accomplishments, and the positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2025 as "National Foster Care Month";

(2) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster care system;

(3) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system;

(8) supports the designation of May 31, 2025, as "National Foster Parent Appreciation Day";

(9) recognizes National Foster Parent Appreciation Day as an opportunity to recognize the efforts of foster parents to provide safe and loving care for children in need and to raise awareness about the increasing need for foster parents to serve in their communities; and

(10) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system through initiatives designed to—

(A) support vulnerable families;

(B) prevent families from entering the foster care system and reunite families in cases where reunification is in the best interest of the child;

(C) promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) adequately serve those children brought into the foster care system; and

(E) facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for youth that "age out" of the foster care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 251—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 10, 2025, AS "CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 251

Whereas millions of youth in the United States struggle with mental health challenges, many of which suffer undiagnosed and untreated;

Whereas adults who struggle with mental health often show symptoms in their youth that go unaddressed and can continue later in life;

Whereas childhood and adolescence can be challenging times in life, leaving our youth especially vulnerable to anxiety, depression, bullying, and self-harm;

Whereas stigma surrounding mental health often prevents youth from seeking the help and support they need, which can exacerbate the effects of mental health conditions;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental health conditions are chronic conditions, and untreated mental health conditions can harm the development and well-being of children, impacting their academic, social, and home environments;

Whereas youth suicide continues to be a significant public health crisis, affecting families, individuals, and communities, and there is a need for extensive suicide awareness and prevention programs; and

Whereas May 4 through May 10, 2025, is an opportunity to strengthen public awareness of youth mental health conditions and advocate for meaningful action to improve mental health care for children in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 4 through May 10, 2025, as "Children's Mental Health Awareness Week" to raise awareness of the mental health conditions facing our children and the importance of early detection, treatment, intervention, and prevention strategies;

(2) recognizes the relationship between children's mental health and plenty of outdoor recreation, a healthy diet, regular socialization with peers, and adequate sleep;

(3) urges youth mental health be categorized as a national priority and calls for the continued promotion of mental health in schools and communities;

(4) applauds the collaboration of local, State, and Federal organizations in promoting awareness of youth mental health and providing support for those in need;

(5) advocates for individuals, families, and communities to participate in activities during "Children's Mental Health Awareness Week" to promote mental health initiatives, reduce stigma, and facilitate access to essential services and resources; and

(6) reaffirms the importance of mental health as a necessary aspect of overall well-being and urges continued efforts to facilitate access to mental health care for the children of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 252—DESIGNATING MAY 2025 AS "OLDER AMERICANS MONTH"

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. HUSTED, and Mr. KIM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 252

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as "Senior Citizens Month" in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately 1/3 of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, there were more than 59,248,361 individuals who were 65 years of age or older living in the United States and those individuals accounted for 17.7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas approximately 11,216 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2023, more than 8,402,856 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;