

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;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help older individuals in the United States maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs that promote social connection and improve the health and well-being of older individuals, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, which assist more than 10,000,000 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, as local aging network leaders, Area Agencies on Aging are critical partners in the healthy aging continuum;

Whereas, in 2023, an estimated 6,774,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement;

Whereas more than 143,000 older individuals serve as AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in the Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, helping communities by mentoring and tutoring children, providing independent living support and companionship to other older adults, addressing food insecurity, and more; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of older individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of older individuals: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2025 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 253—CONGRATULATING HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV ON HIS ELECTION TO THE PAPACY

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. PAUL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 253

Whereas the Senate recognizes the historic and spiritual significance of the election of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV as the Bishop of Rome and leader of the worldwide Catholic Church;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the historic and spiritual significance of the first Pope

from the United States ever elected to the papacy;

Whereas the Pope serves as a global symbol of peace, compassion, humility, and the pursuit of justice; and

Whereas the election of the new Pope marks a moment of profound importance for over 1,000,000,000 Catholics worldwide, including millions in the United States, and for people of all faiths who are inspired by his message and ministry: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the commitment of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV to promoting human dignity, defending the poor and marginalized, advancing interfaith dialogue, and fostering reconciliation and peace throughout the world;

(2) expresses the hope that the strong relationship between the United States and The Holy See will continue to deepen, reflecting shared values of human rights, religious freedom, and global cooperation;

(3) recognizes the significance of the Catholic Church in promoting justice, humanitarian assistance, and moral leadership in the world; and

(4) extends its best wishes for a successful and inspiring pontificate.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 254—DESIGNATING JUNE 12, 2025, AS “NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY”, DESIGNATING EVERY THURSDAY AFTER NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY THROUGH THE LAST THURSDAY IN AUGUST 2025 AS “SEERSUCKER THURSDAY”, AND DESIGNATING JUNE 2025 AS “SEERSUCKER APPRECIATION MONTH”

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

S. RES. 254

Whereas seersucker was introduced to the United States in the South in the middle of the 19th century;

Whereas seersucker suits were popularized in the United States in the early 1900s by New Orleans businessman Joseph Haspel at his Broad Street facility in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas, as a lightweight, hard-wearing fabric, seersucker is mostly worn and enjoyed by the people of the United States during hot summer months;

Whereas former Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi brought Seersucker Thursday to Congress in 1996, and after the day went unobserved in 2012 and 2013, then-Representative Bill Cassidy, with the help of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, revived the tradition in 2014;

Whereas the Senate will remember the historic service of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, who shall forever remain a part of this tradition, which Senator Raphael Warnock will continue in her stead;

Whereas the name “seersucker” originates from the Persian phrase “shir-o-shakar”, meaning “milk and sugar”, alluding to the alternating textures of the fabric;

Whereas the seersucker textile is made of cotton, linen, or silk (or combinations thereof), woven on a loom with threads at different tensions, creating alternating stripes of smooth and puckered textures that do not lay flat on one’s skin, which is what makes the fabric so breathable;

Whereas cotton is an important crop that producers in the United States, including 3,500 family farms in Georgia, strive to cultivate in the highest quality; and

Whereas one of the alternating stripes in seersucker is frequently in a color, typically blue, but sometimes gray, green, tan, red, pink, or another color, which, in combination with the white stripes, creates the iconic pattern so well known today: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 12, 2025, as “National Seersucker Day”;

(2) designates every Thursday after National Seersucker Day through the last Thursday in August 2025 as “Seersucker Thursday”;

(3) designates June 2025 as “Seersucker Appreciation Month”;

(4) recognizes the contributions of the hard-working people of the United States through the wearing of seersucker, the unique warm weather clothing known as the working person’s uniform;

(5) encourages Senators to support the objective of National Seersucker Day and Seersucker Thursday;

(6) encourages local governments in the United States to build partnerships with local organizations and other members of the clothing industries and enthusiasts to promote the wearing of seersucker; and

(7) invites the people of the United States to don their warm weather finest on National Seersucker Day and every Seersucker Thursday.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 255—HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LEGACY OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR CHRISTOPHER “KIT” BOND OF MISSOURI

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGRO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to: