

(6) 59 percent of rural counties are considered a maternity care desert;

(7) rural counties with more Black and Hispanic residents and lower median incomes are less likely to have access to hospital obstetric services;

(8) the average travel distance for maternity care deserts and rural counties is 28.1 and 17.3 miles, respectively; and

(9) American Indian and Alaska Native women living in rural communities are more than twice as likely as their White counterparts to report receiving late or no prenatal care;

Whereas 47 States and the District of Columbia have adopted the option to extend coverage for postpartum care under Medicaid to 12 months;

Whereas 49 States, the District of Columbia, New York City, Philadelphia, and Puerto Rico each have a formal maternal mortality review committee or legal requirement to review pregnancy-related deaths;

Whereas State and local maternal mortality review committees are positioned to comprehensively assess maternal deaths and identify opportunities for prevention;

Whereas 49 States and the District of Columbia are participating in the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, which promotes consistent and safe maternity care to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality;

Whereas community-based maternal health care models, including midwifery childbirth services, doula support services, community and perinatal health worker services, and group prenatal care, in collaboration with culturally competent physician care, show great promise in improving maternal health outcomes and reducing disparities in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas increasing the maternal health care workforce and expanding telehealth services can help reduce the disparities in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas many organizations have implemented initiatives to educate patients and providers about—

(1) all causes of, contributing factors to, and disparities in maternal mortality;

(2) the prevention of pregnancy-related deaths; and

(3) the importance of listening to and empowering all people to report pregnancy-related medical issues; and

Whereas several States, communities, and organizations recognize January 23 as “Maternal Health Awareness Day” to raise awareness about maternal health and promote maternal safety; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 23, 2025, as “Maternal Health Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Maternal Health Awareness Day, including—

(A) raising public awareness about maternal mortality, maternal morbidity, and disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) encouraging the Federal Government, States, territories, Tribes, local communities, public health organizations, physicians, health care providers, and others to take action to reduce adverse maternal health outcomes and improve maternal safety;

(3) promotes initiatives—

(A) to address and eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) to ensure respectful and equitable maternity care practices;

(4) honors those who have passed away as a result of pregnancy-related causes; and

(5) supports and recognizes the need for meaningful investments in efforts to improve maternal health, eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes, and promote respectful and equitable maternity care practices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF JANUARY AS “MUSLIM-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH” AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF MUSLIM AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KIM, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 33

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize and commemorate “Muslim-American Heritage Month”, an observance that celebrates the contributions of Muslim Americans;

Whereas in keeping with the time-honored traditions of the Senate, the Senate recognizes and pays tribute to those who foster cultural pride and enhance the profile of diverse communities across the United States;

Whereas immigration of Muslims to the American colonies began with the arrival of indentured workers;

Whereas, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves of Muslim heritage were brought to the United States;

Whereas in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, successive waves of immigration brought additional Muslims to the United States, who sought to pursue economic and social opportunity, as well as freedom of religion, and enriched the fabric of the society of the United States as business owners, entrepreneurs, health care professionals, humanitarians, scientists, and students;

Whereas Muslim Americans contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faiths in the United States and around the world by providing medical assistance, family services, and scholastic supplies, running before- and after-school programs, feeding the hungry, and providing recuperation efforts following natural disasters;

Whereas Muslim Americans have contributed to every part of the society of the United States by making advancements in architecture, arts, business, culture, government, law, medicine, the military, religion, and sports;

Whereas Bangladeshi-American Fazlur Rahman Khan left his mark on the cityscapes of the United States by pioneering a new structural system of frame tubes used to construct iconic buildings like the World Trade Center in New York City, New York, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Willis “Sears” Tower in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas many Muslim Americans pursue the American dream and contribute to the economy of the United States as business owners and entrepreneurs, including Pakistani-born billionaire Shahid Khan, owner of the auto-parts company Flex-N-Gate and the National Football League’s Jacksonville Jaguars;

Whereas the invention of the ice cream cone by Syrian immigrant Ernest Hamwi is a practical confection with a near ubiquitous presence in the life of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2006, Keith Ellison of Minnesota was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim American to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2008, Ambassador Sada Cumber was appointed by President George W. Bush

to serve as the first Special Envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference from the United States, representing the United States to 57 Muslim-majority nations;

Whereas, in 2015, André Carson of Indiana, the second Muslim American elected to the House of Representatives, became the first Muslim American to serve on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

Whereas actor Mahershala Ali became the first Muslim American to win an Oscar for his supporting role in “Moonlight” in 2017;

Whereas, in 2018, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota were elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim-American women to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2021, Zahid Quraishi was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as an article III Federal judge as a district judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey;

Whereas, in 2021, Rashad Hussain was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom;

Whereas the invention of the intraventricular catheter system by Pakistani-American neurosurgeon Ayub Ommaya provides chemotherapy to treat brain tumors;

Whereas Muslim Americans have fought in support of the United States in every major war, from Bampett Muhamed and Yusuf Ben Ali under the command of General George Washington in the American Revolutionary War, to Captain Humayun Khan, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq in 2004;

Whereas Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, the first Muslim American to deliver the invocation for the Senate, and El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, the civil rights activist and reformer also known as Malcolm X, were prominent religious leaders and scholars;

Whereas Muslim-American professional athletes like Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame members Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon, and Shaquille O’Neal, and 2-time world heavyweight boxing champion Hasim Shariff Rahman, thrilled sports fans across the United States and around the world during their respective careers;

Whereas Muslim-American Olympians, such as boxer Muhammad Ali, track and field athlete Dalilah Muhammad, and fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad, won medals in international competitions;

Whereas, with roots in at least 77 different countries and identifying racially as White, Black, Arab, and Asian, Muslim Americans are an extremely diverse population;

Whereas the current population of Muslims living in the United States is estimated at over 3,450,000 individuals;

Whereas over 4,500 Muslims serve on active duty, and over 2,300 Muslims serve as selected reserve personnel in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Muslim population has been growing in the United States, and the present-day Muslim-American population is a tapestry of ethnic, racial, linguistic, social, and economic groups;

Whereas nearly 50 percent of Muslim Americans have reported experiencing religious discrimination, with that number rising to 64 percent for Muslim Americans whose appearance identifies them as Muslim, such as women who wear the hijab or headscarf;

Whereas there is a need for public education, awareness, and policies that help people be culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts that Muslim Americans have on all aspects of the society of the United States;

Whereas “Muslim-American Heritage Month” will be observed in the month of January; and

Whereas the incredible contributions and heritage of Muslim Americans have helped to build a better United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of January as “Muslim-American Heritage Month”;

(2) honors the contributions and integral role of Muslim Americans in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe “Muslim-American Heritage Month” with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities that celebrate the contributions of Muslim Americans to the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 34—CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS BEARS WOMEN’S SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NCAA DIVISION III WOMEN’S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**

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

**S. RES. 34**

Whereas, on December 8, 2024, the Washington University in St. Louis Bears women’s soccer team (referred to in this preamble as the “Bears”) defeated the nationally ranked William Smith Herons, 3 to 0, to win the 2024 NCAA Division III Women’s Soccer Championship;

Whereas the Bears demonstrated extraordinary teamwork, skill, and hard work throughout this victory and the entire season;

Whereas the Bears attained a 23-0-2 record during this season;

Whereas the Bears achieved the top ranking in the 2024 NCAA Division III Women’s Soccer season;

Whereas the coaching staff led by head coach Jim Conlon provided outstanding leadership and strategy, contributing significantly to the victories throughout the season, culminating with the end-of-year victory in the 2024 NCAA Division III Women’s Soccer Championship;

Whereas Olivia Clemons was named Offensive Player of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and All-Tournament Offensive Player, finishing the season with an impressive 22 goals and 6 assists;

Whereas head coach Jim Conlon and assistant coaches Brandon Santel, Amanda Kesler, and Katharine Zaber were named Coaching Staff of the Year;

Whereas 4 players earned First-Team honors, 2 players earned honorable mention

nods, and 4 players were selected to the All-Tournament Team; and

Whereas fans of the Bears demonstrated enthusiasm and loyalty in supporting their team throughout the 2024 NCAA Division III soccer season: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Washington University in St. Louis Bears women’s soccer team on winning the 2024 Division III Women’s Soccer Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements, contributions, and dedication of the players, coaches, management, and support staff of the Bears;

(3) congratulates the alumni, students, and faculty of the Washington University in St. Louis;

(4) recognizes the hard work and commitment of the staff of the Francis Olympic Field and Peter Johann Memorial Field; and

(5) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Chancellor of the Washington University in St. Louis, Andrew D. Martin;

(B) the Director of Athletics of the Washington University Bears, Anthony J. Azama; and

(C) the head coach of the Washington University Bears women’s soccer team, Jim Conlon.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 23, 2025, to vote on a nomination, committee rules and procedures, and subcommittee organization and jurisdiction.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 9 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that the Senate resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 3, and that all time during recess, adjournment, and leader remarks count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 24, 2025, at 10 a.m.

**CONFIRMATION**

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 23, 2025:

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**  
 JOHN RATCLIFFE, OF TEXAS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.