

SENATE RESOLUTION 292—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 19, 2025, AS “WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY” IN ORDER TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE CONTINUED NEED FOR EMPIRICAL RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION SCREENINGS, NOVEL EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS LEADING TO A CURE, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 292

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders, a genetic condition present at birth, and a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the 2025 theme of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, “Global Action, Local Impact: Empowering Communities for Effective Self-Advocacy”, is an immediate call to bring voices together to improve the health and quality of life for individuals living with SCD and their families;

Whereas, in 1972, Dr. Charles Whitten co-founded the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America to improve research, education, and health care for SCD patients and which is now headquartered in Hanover, Maryland;

Whereas, in 1972, Congress passed the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act (Public Law 92-294; 86 Stat. 136), which, for the first time, provided authority to establish education, information, screening, testing, counseling, research, and treatment programs for SCD;

Whereas sickle cell trait (referred to in this preamble as “SCT”) is a gene mutation that causes a single misspelling in the DNA instructions for hemoglobin, a protein that aids in carrying oxygen in the blood, and can result in chronic complications for individuals living with SCD, including anemia, stroke, infections, organ failure, tissue damage, intense periods of pain referred to as vaso-occlusive crises, and even premature death;

Whereas SCT occurs when an individual inherits 1 copy of the sickle cell gene from 1 parent, and, although most individuals who have SCT live normal lives, when both parents have SCT, there is a 25 percent chance that any of their children will have SCD;

Whereas there are an estimated 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 individuals with SCT in the United States, with many unaware of their status;

Whereas an estimated 100,000 individuals have SCD in the United States, with 1 out of every 365 African-American births and 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births resulting in SCD, and nearly 1 out of 13 African-American babies are born with SCT;

Whereas SCD affects millions of individuals throughout the world, especially individuals of genetic descent from certain countries in sub-Saharan Africa, South and Central America, Saudi Arabia, India, and the Mediterranean basin;

Whereas the variance relating to the prevalence of SCT ranges greatly by region and demography, with overall rates as high as 40 percent in parts of Africa;

Whereas, in many countries that are poor in resources, 90 percent of children with SCD do not live to see adulthood;

Whereas approximately 1,000 children in Africa are born with SCD each day, more than ½ of whom will die before their fifth birthday;

Whereas, in 2006, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution, adopted by the United Nations in 2009, recognizing SCD as a public health priority with a call to action for each country to implement measures to tackle the disease, and in 2010, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution relating to preventing and managing birth defects, including SCD;

Whereas screening newborns for SCD is a crucial first step for families to obtain a timely diagnosis, to obtain comprehensive care, and to decrease the mortality rate for children with respect to SCD;

Whereas approved treatments for SCD are limited, with the Food and Drug Administration approving only 4 SCD therapies since 2017;

Whereas there is an immediate need for lifesaving therapeutics that can improve the duration and quality of life for individuals with SCD;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address SCD, which highlights the need to develop new innovative therapies and to address barriers to the equitable access of approved treatments;

Whereas, in 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the American Society of Hematology and the SickleInAfrica Consortium, and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, hosted a webinar for a joint effort to strengthen efforts to combat SCD during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;

Whereas the late Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, an American Society of Hematology member who founded and served as a member of the Global Sickle Cell Disease Network, was a leader in advancing the body of knowledge in SCD research, public health, and medicine and is recognized as immeasurably benefitting thousands of children worldwide;

Whereas there are emerging genetic therapy technologies, including 2 therapies approved by the Food and Drug Administration in December of 2023, that can modify the hematopoietic stem cells of a patient to enable them to generate healthy red blood cells to prevent sickle cell crises;

Whereas hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD, and while advancements in treatment for complications associated with SCD have been made, more research is needed to find widely available and accessible treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas, although June 19, 2025, has been designated as “World Sickle Cell Awareness Day” to increase public awareness across the United States and global community about SCD, there remains a continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions relating to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day;

(2) commits to ensuring equitable access to new sickle cell disease (referred to in this resolution as “SCD”) treatments by shining the light among all economic, racial, and

ethnic groups to improve health outcomes for individuals living with SCD;

(3) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to create global policy solutions aimed at providing support for the global community with respect to SCD and, in partnership with local governments, the domestic resources needed to provide access to newborn screening programs, therapeutic interventions, and support services with respect to SCD;

(4) supports eliminating barriers to equitable access to innovative SCD therapies, including cell, gene, and gene-editing therapies in the Medicare and Medicaid systems for the most vulnerable patients;

(5) encourages the people of the United States and the world to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities on World Sickle Cell Awareness Day to raise public awareness of SCD traits, preventative-care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions relating to SCD;

(6) encourages the President to form a Sickle Cell Disease Interagency Group, which should include the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to work toward policies that will support equitable and appropriate access to innovative SCD therapies; and

(7) with respect to the policies described in paragraph (6), urges the interagency group described in that paragraph to consider options that not only address access to potential future curative treatments for SCD, but also address the bias that the population most affected by SCD continues to face within the United States and global healthcare systems.

SENATE RESOLUTION 293—COMMEMORATING THE MINNESOTA FROST FOR WINNING THE 2025 PROFESSIONAL WOMEN’S HOCKEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 293

Whereas, on May 26, 2025, the Minnesota Frost (referred to in this preamble as the “Frost”) won their second straight Walter Cup, beating the Ottawa Charge 2 to 1 in game 4 of the 2025 Professional Women’s Hockey League (referred to in this preamble as the “PWHL”) Championship Finals (referred to in this preamble as the “Championship”);

Whereas Frost Forward Liz Schepers, from Mound, Minnesota, scored the Championship-winning goal 12 minutes into overtime of the Championship-deciding game;

Whereas Frost Goaltender Maddie Rooney, from Andover, Minnesota, made 33 stops and finished the 2025 playoffs with a record of 5 wins and 0 losses;

Whereas the Frost and the Ottawa Charge played an exhilarating Championship series where all 4 games in the best-of-5 series went into overtime;

Whereas the Frost lost game 1 of the Championship series but came back to win 3 straight, including a triple-overtime game;

Whereas the Ottawa Charge Rookie Goaltender Gwyneth Philips won the 2025 Ilana Kloss Playoff MVP award in a losing effort;

Whereas the PWHL is commended for a great and entertaining second season;

Whereas the PWHL reached the 1,000,000th fan attendance milestone on March 16, 2025;

Whereas the innovative and competitive play of the PWHL continues to excite and inspire people throughout the United States and Canada; and

Whereas there is more to look forward to during the PWHL 2025–2026 season with expansion teams beginning play in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Seattle, Washington: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Minnesota Frost for winning the 2025 Professional Women's Hockey League Championship, their second straight championship;

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, and hard work of the players, coaches, and staff of the Minnesota Frost in winning the championship;

(3) recognizes the difficulty of winning 2 straight championship titles in any league or sport; and

(4) congratulates and thanks the fans, players, coaches, and staff of the Minnesota Frost for a great 2024–2025 season.

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 24, 2025, AS “NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK”

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 294

Whereas public works professionals work around the clock to ensure the vital infrastructure, facilities, and services of communities to deliver dependable, sustainable, and resilient human needs that include the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States, while advancing the quality of life for all;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals who represent Federal, State, and local governments, and private sector organizations throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, sanitation and waste management systems, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States;

Whereas many public works professionals are first responders and are the first to arrive and last to leave a natural disaster area or incident scene; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 18 through May 24, 2025, as “National Public Works Week”;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the health, safety, and well-being of our communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 15—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. MORENO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 15

Whereas more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States risk their lives daily to serve and protect their communities;

Whereas the law enforcement officers of the United States perform their difficult and dangerous job honorably and professionally, with the overwhelming majority of Americans having a positive opinion of their interactions with police;

Whereas innovative and dedicated efforts by law enforcement officers successfully brought down crime rates over the past 3 decades from the historic highs experienced in the 1990s;

Whereas there are more than 24,000 names of fallen law enforcement heroes listed on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, dating back to the first death in the line of duty in 1786;

Whereas the environment for officers has become increasingly more hostile and their safety more precarious;

Whereas 2023 saw the highest officer assault rate of the past 10 years, with more than 79,000 law enforcement officers assaulted by criminals;

Where, in the past 3 years, 1,055 officers have been shot and 172 killed in the line of duty;

Whereas more than 2,500 law enforcement officers in the United States have died in the line of duty during the past decade;

Whereas a law enforcement officer will typically encounter between 400 and 600 traumatic events during the career of the officer, compared with 3 or 4 traumatic events encountered by the average citizen;

Whereas the unusually high number of traumatic events experienced by law enforcement officers has contributed to a 54 percent higher suicide rate among officers than among other workers in the United States;

Whereas the number of full-time State and local officers dropped by 5.3 percent between 2019 and 2021, the equivalent of nearly 37,000 fewer officers, leaving behind a dangerously low level of sworn officers to serve and protect communities throughout the United States; and

Whereas supporting law enforcement officers with the equipment, training, and funding needed to protect communities from criminal violence has long received overwhelming public support across the political spectrum: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) highly respects and values United States law enforcement professionals and

greatly appreciates all that those officers do to protect and serve our communities;

(2) remembers and honors those officers and their families who have experienced a death or injury in the line of duty;

(3) calls for increased measures to be taken to maximize the safety and well-being of officers, including more policing personnel, improved training and equipment, tough penalties for assaulting or killing a law enforcement professional, and increased mental health resources for officers; and

(4) calls on all levels of government to ensure that law enforcement professionals receive the support and resources needed to keep the United States safe.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have seven 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing in open and closed session.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges