

Whereas the Task Force invites and carefully considers public comment in the development process for all Task Force research plans, evidence reviews, and recommendation statements to increase the transparency and utility of the outputs of the Task Force;

Whereas the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) (referred to in this preamble as the “ACA”) reauthorized the Task Force and required insurers to cover, without deductible or copay, preventive services that are recommended by the Task Force with a grade of “A” or “B”, along with those preventive services recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as “ACIP”), Bright Futures, and the Health Resources and Services Administration’s guidelines for women’s health;

Whereas the ACA prohibits most health plans, including private health insurance plans, Medicare, and Medicaid, from imposing cost-sharing on patients for preventive services when the services are delivered by an in-network provider;

Whereas the Task Force comprehensively assesses evidence and makes recommendations about the effectiveness of clinical primary and secondary preventive services, including screening tests, counseling about healthy behaviors, and preventive medications for children, adolescents, adults, older adults, and pregnant women, which collectively includes 54 recommended preventive services and medicines that are covered without cost-sharing;

Whereas such recommended services include preventive health services such as screenings for heart disease, screenings for breast, colorectal, cervical, and lung cancer, and folic acid supplements for women to prevent birth defects in their babies;

Whereas the most common causes of chronic disease in the United States include smoking, obesity, high blood sugar, hypertension, and high cholesterol, and the Task Force has made recommendations regarding prevention of all of those causes for both children and adults;

Whereas the Task Force recommendations are entirely based on the strength of the evidence and the balance of benefits and harms of a preventive service;

Whereas the Task Force has saved hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of lives due to its often simple and inexpensive recommendations;

Whereas preventive services can help people avoid acute illness, identify and treat chronic conditions, prevent cancer or lead to earlier detection, improve health outcomes, and reduce the burden of end-stage chronic disease;

Whereas the Task Force is comprised of members selected, reviewed, and appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

Whereas nominations for members of the Task Force are open to the public, and qualification includes demonstrated knowledge, expertise, and national leadership in areas including—

(1) the critical evaluation of research published in peer-reviewed literature and in the methods of evidence review;

(2) clinical prevention, health promotion, and primary health care;

(3) implementation of evidence-based recommendations in clinical practice, including at the clinician-patient level, practice level, and health system level; and

(4) experience in methodological issues, such as meta-analysis, analytic modeling, or clinical epidemiology, for members without primary health care clinical experience;

Whereas the members of the Task Force are appointed for staggered 4-year terms, with potential 1-year extensions, to allow new perspectives into the Task Force while ensuring continuity in its mission;

Whereas applicants for the Task Force are required to not have substantial conflicts of interest, whether financial, professional, or intellectual, that would impair the scientific integrity of the work of the Task Force, and must complete regular conflict of interest disclosures;

Whereas the Task Force is assisted in fulfilling its mission by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (referred to in this preamble as the “AHRQ”), which provides scientific, administrative, and dissemination support to the Task Force, and by AHRQ-designated Evidence-based Practice Centers, which develop the evidence reviews, evidence summaries, and other documents that inform the deliberations of the Task Force;

Whereas recent funding and staffing reductions at AHRQ have significantly impacted its ability to support the Task Force;

Whereas the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Kennedy v. Braidwood Management, Inc.*, upheld the constitutionality of the Task Force;

Whereas the Braidwood decision reaffirmed the power of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to appoint or remove members of the Task Force and review their recommendations;

Whereas the Task Force meets 3 times a year, in March, July, and November;

Whereas, on July 7, 2025, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy (referred to in this preamble as “Secretary Kennedy”) abruptly cancelled a meeting of the Task Force scheduled for July 10, 2025; and

Whereas Task Force meetings are necessary for formal votes to consider, reconsider or move forward Task Force recommendations and material development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) to ensure access for the people of the United States to life-saving, evidence-based preventive care and services, the operations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (referred to in this resolution as the “Task Force”), including working with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Evidence-based Practice Centers, and related stakeholders, should not be subject to any interruption, delay, or funding disruption;

(2) the members of the Task Force currently comprised of experts in primary care and preventive medicine serving staggered 4-year terms have been charged by Congress to make evidence-based recommendations about preventive health services, and do so transparently using the best available scientific evidence;

(3) the members of the Task Force should continue to serve their 4-year terms to completion;

(4) the work of the Task Force must continue to be grounded in transparent, evidence-based review that is based on vetted, proven, and scientifically demonstrated studies; and

(5) the Department of Health and Human Services, as required by section 915 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299b-4), must reconvene the Task Force and move the work of the Task Force forward without delay.

SENATE RESOLUTION 344—OBSERVING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE ON WHICH HURRICANE KATRINA DEVASTATED THE GULF COAST AND RECOGNIZING THE PROGRESS OF EFFORTS TO REBUILD THE AFFECTED GULF COAST REGION

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 344

Whereas, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a Category 3 hurricane and 1 of the 5 deadliest hurricanes in United States history, hit the Gulf Coast and caused 1,833 recorded fatalities, including 1,577 in Louisiana, 238 in Mississippi, 14 in Florida, 2 in Georgia, and 2 in Alabama, according to the National Hurricane Center;

Whereas Hurricane Katrina inflicted catastrophic damage, estimated at \$161,000,000,000 in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida;

Whereas more than 1,200,000 people were under some type of evacuation order, including New Orleans’ first mandatory evacuation in the city’s history;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 Gulf Coast residents were displaced, and many remain displaced to this day;

Whereas hundreds of thousands were unemployed as a result of the devastation to businesses;

Whereas more than 200,000 homes and 20,000 businesses from Louisiana to Florida were destroyed;

Whereas an estimated 5,000,000 people were left without power, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

Whereas major highways were destroyed, including the Interstate 10 Twin Span Bridge connecting the cities of New Orleans and Slidell in Louisiana and United States Highway 90 bridges connecting Bay St. Louis to Pass Christian and Biloxi to Ocean Springs in Mississippi;

Whereas the Louisiana Superdome sheltered an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 evacuees and suffered roof leaks and other significant damage from strong winds;

Whereas neighboring cities and States took in thousands of displaced residents and provided medical care and shelter at makeshift hospitals, such as the Katrina Clinic at the Astrodome (formerly named the Reliant Center) in Houston, Texas;

Whereas the United States Coast Guard rescued more than 33,544 people and assisted with the evacuation of 9,409 patients and medical personnel from 11 hospitals;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces orchestrated one of the largest domestic rescue operations in history, with command centers at the Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida; and Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi;

Whereas the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, America’s Second Harvest (now known as Feeding America), Catholic Charities, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, United Way, and other religious and charitable organizations provided crucial food, water, and hygiene products to victims;

Whereas countless first responders, such as police officers, emergency medical personnel, and firefighters, from across the United States worked around the clock to

provide care for and to protect the safety of residents from the affected communities;

Whereas those affected have shown great resilience and strength to rebuild and restore their communities;

Whereas the resident population of the Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula, Mississippi metropolitan statistical area was 421,916 in March 2024, an 87 percent increase over its lowest point of 225,681 in 2006;

Whereas the number of tourists who visited New Orleans was 17,500,000 in 2022, up from 3,700,000 tourists in 2006; and

Whereas, although significant progress has been made in the Gulf Coast region, there is still more work to be done to address the challenges still attributable to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its support to the victims of Hurricane Katrina;

(2) commends the courageous efforts of those who assisted in the recovery progress;

(3) recognizes the contributions of communities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Georgia to the United States; and

(4) reaffirms its commitment to rebuild, renew, and restore the Gulf Coast region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 345—CONGRATULATING THE OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER ON WINNING THE 2025 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION FINALS

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

S. RES. 345

Whereas, on Sunday, June 22, 2025, the Oklahoma City Thunder (referred to in this preamble as the “Thunder”) won the 2025 National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NBA”) Finals, defeating the Indiana Pacers in Game 7 with a final score of 103-91 to win the series 4-3;

Whereas, in 2008, the Seattle SuperSonics relocated to Oklahoma City, changing the name of the franchise to the Thunder on arrival;

Whereas the 2008-2009 NBA season was the inaugural season of the Thunder in Oklahoma City;

Whereas the Thunder defeated the Memphis Grizzlies, Denver Nuggets, and Minnesota Timberwolves en route to the 2025 NBA Finals;

Whereas, on winning the 2025 NBA Finals, the Thunder secured the first NBA championship for the franchise since relocating to Oklahoma City;

Whereas the Thunder finished the 2024-2025 NBA regular season with 68 wins and 14 losses, a winning percentage of .829;

Whereas the 2025 NBA Finals was the first NBA Finals since 2016 to reach a Game 7;

Whereas, in Game 7 of the 2025 NBA Finals, the Thunder—

(1) trailed the Indiana Pacers 48-47 at halftime, making an incredible comeback in the second half to secure the win and championship; and

(2) shut down the Pacers offense, causing the Pacers to score its fewest points of any postseason game;

Whereas Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was named the Most Valuable Player of the NBA for the 2024-2025 regular season and the 2025 NBA Finals, scoring 29 points and 12 assists in Game 7 of the 2025 NBA Finals;

Whereas, during the 2024-2025 NBA season, the Thunder averaged 120.5 points per game, ranking fourth in the NBA, and only allowed

their opponents to score an average of 107.6 points per game, outscoring their opponents by an average of 12.8 points per game, the best margin in the NBA during that season;

Whereas the Thunder victory parade passed in front of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, with 2025 marking the 30-year anniversary of the tragic 1995 Oklahoma City bombing;

Whereas an estimated 500,000 Thunder fans descended on Oklahoma City to attend the victory parade; and

Whereas the entire State of Oklahoma rallied behind the Thunder to celebrate the historic win of the Thunder in the 2025 NBA Finals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Oklahoma City Thunder (referred to in this resolution as the “Thunder”) on winning the 2025 National Basketball Association Finals; and

(2) recognizes the Thunder for—

(A) its hard work and dedication to basketball; and

(B) the excitement the Thunder bring to the State of Oklahoma and fans everywhere.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3070. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3071. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3072. Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3073. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3074. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3075. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3076. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3077. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3078. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3079. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for mili-

tary construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3080. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3081. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3082. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3083. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3084. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. JUSTICE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3085. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3086. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3087. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3088. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3089. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3038 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3090. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3091. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3092. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3093. Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO) submitted an amendment intended