

information on the Republic of South Sudan's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 353

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution requesting information on the Republic of Costa Rica's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 354

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 354, a resolution requesting information on the Republic of Panama's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 355

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 355, a resolution requesting information on the Republic of Rwanda's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 356

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 356, a resolution requesting information on the United Mexican States' human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 386

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 386, a resolution designating the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week".

AMENDMENT NO. 3288

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3288 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3714

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3714 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 389—CON-DEMNING THE EXTREME ANTI-VACCINE POLICIES OF SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., STRONGLY OPPOSING THE POLICIES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA THAT ROLL BACK IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT VACCINES ARE CRITICAL TO PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH, ELIMINATING PREVENTABLE ILLNESS AND DEATH, AND REDUCING HOSPITALIZATIONS AND SEVERITY OF ILLNESS, WORK BEST WHEN ADOPTED AT A HIGH LEVEL WITHIN EACH COMMUNITY, AND MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 389

Whereas there is strong bipartisan support for wide access to vaccines, ensuring vaccines are affordable, trusting science and relying on peer-reviewed medical information, and protecting all individuals, especially children and vulnerable populations, from preventable illness;

Whereas it is dangerous and harmful to children's health to promote conspiracy theories and restrict access to life-saving preventive medicine, including vaccines;

Whereas having a high rate of community adoption of vaccines is critical to protect individuals who medically cannot receive certain vaccinations, including infants and individuals with weakened immune systems, such as cancer patients;

Whereas routine childhood immunizations for children born between 1994 and 2023 have prevented approximately 508,000,000 cases of illness, approximately 32,000,000 hospitalizations, and over 1,100,000 deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas measles is a highly contagious and deadly disease with a range of serious health complications, and the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) is safe and effective in preventing this disease and has prevented over 60,000,000 deaths worldwide between 2000 and 2023;

Whereas COVID-19 has caused over 1,200,000 deaths in the United States and over 7,100,000 deaths worldwide, with fatalities dropping dramatically once the COVID-19 vaccine became widely available;

Whereas after the hepatitis A vaccine was introduced in 1995, between 1996 and 2011, the rate of hepatitis A infection dropped by 95 percent;

Whereas after the hepatitis B vaccine was introduced with implementation of the birth dose recommendation, there has been a 95 percent reduction in infant hepatitis B infections, and an estimated 90,100 deaths have been prevented;

Whereas polio was a major cause of significant disability and paralysis of children prior to the polio vaccine being released in 1955, with over 21,000 paralytic cases in 1952, and the disease was eradicated in the United States by 1979 due to effectiveness of the vaccine;

Whereas diphtheria, described in history dating back to the 5th century, is a contagious disease that causes respiratory illness, has a 30 percent fatality rate (with higher fatality rates for young children), and caused up to 15,000 deaths in the United States annually in the 1920s, but due to widespread vaccination, there has been only 1 reported death from diphtheria in the United States between 1996 and 2018;

Whereas smallpox is a deadly disease that has existed for over 3000 years, with a fatality rate around 30 percent, that was eradicated in the United States by 1949 and worldwide by 1977, due to the effectiveness of vaccines;

Whereas vaccines for seniors, including vaccines for influenza, COVID-19, and shingles, are a critical prevention tool to keep older individuals healthy and out of the hospital;

Whereas there are numerous additional diseases, including some cancers, that are preventable by vaccines;

Whereas vaccine research to discover new ways to prevent additional disease or treat disease should continue to receive Federal research funding with no political interference;

Whereas availability and insurance coverage of vaccines for the entire population through a wide range of medical and community settings, such as pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, physician offices, health departments, health centers, mobile clinics, and other locations, is essential to ensure access to vaccines and protect public health;

Whereas recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on vaccines are tied to, and impact, a wide array of health programs, including the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the program under section 1928 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396g; commonly referred to as the "Vaccines for Children program"), the TRICARE program under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code, hospital care and medical services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs under chapters 17 and 18 of title 38, United States Code, the Medicare program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.), and private health insurance;

Whereas a lack of private or public insurance coverage for vaccines could make vaccines prohibitively expensive for millions of patients to access, forcing patients to forego vaccinations due to cost;

Whereas in June 2025, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. took the unprecedented step of dismissing all 17 members of the previously independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and appointed a new set of members;

Whereas such Advisory Committee has advised the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on vaccine recommendations for more than 60 years;

Whereas Secretary Kennedy's actions directly threatened access to the COVID-19 vaccine in several States, including Nevada, by making it more difficult for individuals who want the vaccine to get it; and

Whereas in September 2025, the State of Florida became the first State in modern history to take steps to eliminate its immunization requirements for schoolchildren, putting Florida children at a higher risk of contracting preventable diseases like measles, pertussis, and other life-threatening diseases: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports public health decisions based on science;

(2) agrees with the stance of the American Academy of Pediatrics and other professional medical organizations in strongly recommending immunization as the safest and most cost-effective way of preventing disease, disability, and death;

(3) condemns States taking steps to weaken school immunization requirements, putting children and vulnerable individuals at serious risk;

(4) strongly opposes the anti-vaccine policies proposed by the State of Florida in September 2025;

(5) condemns the misguided policies of Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. that are based on anti-vaccine conspiracy theories and have resulted in confusion, fear, and lack of vaccine access for American families;

(6) opposes the politicization of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and calls for a return to relying on unbiased and qualified medical professionals;

(7) affirms that vaccines, including for COVID-19, should remain accessible, including through insurance coverage, and that the government should not mandate policies that make COVID-19 vaccines unavailable for those who want them; and

(8) expresses the sense of the Senate that vaccines—

(A) are critical to protecting public health, eliminating preventable illness and death, and reducing hospitalization and severity of illness;

(B) work best when adopted at a high rate within each community; and

(C) should remain easily accessible and affordable, without restriction.

SENATE RESOLUTION 390—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS MONTH”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. Kaine, Mr. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KING, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 390

Whereas voting is 1 of the single most important rights that can be exercised in a democracy;

Whereas, over the course of history, various voter suppression laws in the United States have hindered, and even prohibited, certain individuals and groups from exercising the right to vote;

Whereas, during the 19th and early 20th centuries, Native Americans and people who were born to United States citizens abroad, people who spoke a language other than English, and people who were formerly subjected to slavery were denied full citizenship and prevented from voting by English literacy tests;

Whereas, since the 1870s, minority groups such as Black Americans in the South have suffered from the oppressive effects of Jim Crow laws that were designed to prevent political, economic, and social mobility;

Whereas Black Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other

underrepresented voters were subject to violence, poll taxes, literacy tests, all-White primaries, property ownership tests, and grandfather clauses that were designed to suppress the right of those underrepresented individuals to vote;

Whereas, as of 2024, 4,000,000 people in the United States were disenfranchised from voting because of a felony conviction, including 1 in 16 Black adults, due to the shameful entanglement of racial injustice in the criminal legal system and voting access in the United States;

Whereas members of the aforementioned groups and others are currently, in some cases, subject to intimidation, voter roll purges, and financial barriers that act effectively as modern-day poll taxes;

Whereas, in 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to protect the right of Black Americans and other traditionally disenfranchised groups to vote, among other reasons;

Whereas, in 2013, in the landmark case of *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), the Supreme Court of the United States invalidated section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10303), dismantling the preclearance formula provision in that Act that protected voters in States and localities that historically have suppressed the right of minorities to vote;

Whereas, since the invalidation of the preclearance formula provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), gerrymandered districts in many States have gone unchallenged and have become less likely to be invalidated by the courts;

Whereas gerrymandered districts in many States have been found to have a discriminatory impact on traditionally disenfranchised minorities through tactics that include “cracking”, diluting the voting power of minorities across many districts, and “packing”, concentrating the power of minority voters into 1 district to reduce their voting power in other districts;

Whereas the courts have found the congressional and, in some cases, State legislative district maps in Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Alabama, and Louisiana to be gerrymandered districts that were created to favor some groups over others;

Whereas, despite courts finding some State legislative district maps to be gerrymandered, Republican-controlled State legislatures in 2025 are actively working to further gerrymandering before future elections are held;

Whereas these restrictive voting laws encompass cutbacks in early voting, voter roll purges, placement of faulty equipment in minority communities, requirement of photo identification, and the elimination of same-day registration;

Whereas these policies could outright disenfranchise or make voting much more difficult for more than 80,000,000 minority, elderly, poor, and disabled voters, among other groups;

Whereas, in 2016, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas were ruled to violate the rights of voters and were overturned by the courts;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), calls on Congress to update the formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.);

Whereas addressing the challenges of administering future elections requires increasing the accessibility of vote-by-mail and other limited-contact options to ensure access to the ballot and the protection of the health and safety of voters, and access to the ballot amid a global pandemic like the

Coronavirus Disease 2019 public health emergency;

Whereas Congress must work to combat any attempts to dismantle or underfund the United States Postal Service or obstruct the passage of the mail as blatant tactics of voter suppression and election interference;

Whereas following the 2020 elections there has been a relentless attack on the right to vote with more than 400 bills having been introduced to roll back the right to vote, including such bills being introduced in almost every State and at least 44 of such bills having been signed into law in 18 States;

Whereas the Trump administration has repeatedly attempted to restrict voter registration and access to the ballot, including vote-by-mail, for eligible citizens of the United States;

Whereas there is much more work to be done to ensure all citizens of the United States have the right to vote through free, fair, and accessible elections, and Congress must exercise its constitutional authority to protect the right to vote;

Whereas National Voter Registration Day in 2025 is Tuesday, September 16; and

Whereas September 2025 would be an appropriate month—

(1) to designate as “National Voting Rights Month”; and

(2) to ensure that, through the registration of voters and awareness of elections, the democracy of the United States includes all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2025 as “National Voting Rights Month”;;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to uphold the right of every citizen to exercise the sacred and fundamental right to vote;

(3) encourages Congress to pass—

(A) the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2025 (S. 2523, H. R. 14, 119th Congress), to strengthen protections for voters by restoring and modernizing key protections in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to prevent discriminatory gerrymandering and to ensure minority voting rights are safeguarded; and

(B) other voting rights legislation that seeks to advance voting rights and protect elections in the United States;

(4) recommends that public schools and universities in the United States develop an academic curriculum that educates students about—

(A) the importance of voting, how to register to vote, where to vote, and the different forms of voting;

(B) the history of voter suppression in the United States before and after passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.); and

(C) current measures that have been taken to restrict the vote;

(5) expresses appreciation for the United States Postal Service having issued a special Representative John R. Lewis stamp—

(A) to honor the life and legacy of Representative John R. Lewis in supporting voting rights; and

(B) to remind people in the United States that ordinary citizens risked their lives, marched, and participated in the great democracy of the United States so that all citizens would have the fundamental right to vote; and

(6) invites Congress to allocate the requisite funds for public service announcements on television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media, billboards, buses, and other forms of media—

(A) to remind people in the United States when elections are being held;