

the Act of September 30, 1950 (commonly known as the “Impact Aid Act”) (64 Stat. 1100; chapter 1124);

Whereas, in 1994, Congress passed the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 108 Stat. 3518), which repealed the Act of September 30, 1950 (commonly known as the “Impact Aid Act”) (64 Stat. 1100; chapter 1124), and codified the Impact Aid program in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

Whereas Congress has continued to demonstrate support for the Impact Aid program by reauthorizing that program 16 times between 1950 and 2020;

Whereas, to formalize and energize the broad, bipartisan support for the Impact Aid program, the Senate Impact Aid Coalition was established in 1996, the House Impact Aid Coalition was established in 1995, and the 2 coalitions were reorganized into the Congressional Impact Aid Caucus in 2025; and

Whereas the Federal obligation on which the Impact Aid program is based is the same in September 2025 as it was when the Impact Aid program was established 75 years before, in September 1950: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 30, 2025, as “Impact Aid Recognition Day” to recognize the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Impact Aid program; and

(2) recognizes the importance of—

(A) the Impact Aid program under title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.); and

(B) the objective of that program to ensure that all children educated in Federally impacted school districts receive a high-quality education and have access to the opportunities needed to reach their full potential.

SENATE RESOLUTION 407—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE COMMENTS MADE BY FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, THREATENING TO PENALIZE ABC AND DISNEY FOR THE POLITICAL COMMENTARY OF ABC LATE NIGHT HOST JIMMY KIMMEL WERE DANGEROUS AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 407

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides that “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press,” protections that extend to political speech and commentary, even when controversial or offensive;

Whereas the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is charged with overseeing the public airwaves in a manner consistent with the Constitution and does not have authority to censor programming or punish broadcasters for their editorial decisions;

Whereas, on September 17, 2025, Chairman Brendan Carr publicly threatened ABC and its parent company, Disney, and its affiliates, over a monologue delivered by comedian Jimmy Kimmel, stating that “we can do this the easy way or the hard way,” in clear reference to the FCC’s regulatory power;

Whereas, following these comments, ABC’s largest affiliate group announced it would preempt Mr. Kimmel’s programming, and shortly thereafter, ABC and Disney suspended Mr. Kimmel, demonstrating the coercive effect of Chairman Carr’s unconstitutional threats and the chilling impact on free expression in broadcasting;

Whereas, in Mr. Carr’s role as chairman, Carr has repeatedly claimed in public statements and past social media posts to support the First Amendment and defend free speech, including the following statements:

(1) “This is nothing more than a brazen attempt by government officials to silence political speech they don’t like.”

(2) “From Internet memes to late-night comedians, from cartoons to the plays and poems as old as organized government itself—Political Satire circumvents traditional gatekeepers and helps hold those in power accountable. Not surprising that it’s long been targeted for censorship.”

(3) “Free speech is not a threat to democracy—censorship is.”; and

Whereas, by using his official position to pressure private broadcasters over their protected commentary, Chairman Carr has betrayed the trust of his office, abused the power of his position, undermined the independence of the press, and violated the constitutional principles he is sworn to uphold: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Chairman Brendan Carr for abusing his position as a Federal regulator to threaten Disney and ABC over constitutionally protected speech;

(2) affirms the importance of the First Amendment and the independence of broadcasters and journalists from government coercion; and

(3) calls upon Chairman Carr to immediately retract his threats and recommit himself to respecting the constitutional limitations on his office.

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS “NATIONAL LGBTQ+ SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS DAY”

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:

S. RES. 408

Whereas lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as “LGBTQ+”) servicemembers and veterans have honorably served in the Armed Forces in every war to which the United States was a party, beginning with the Revolutionary War;

Whereas LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans have served in the Armed Forces despite discriminatory policies based on who they love or how they identify;

Whereas, on April 27, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450 (18 Fed. Reg. 2489; relating to security requirements for Government employment), which declared “sexual perversion” and “treatment for serious mental or neurological disorders” to be security risks and grounds for denying Federal employment;

Whereas Executive Order 10450, eventually repealed by President Barack Obama in 2017,

contributed to the “Lavender Scare” of the 1950s by banning gay and lesbian people from working in the Government, including in the Armed Forces, and was similarly applied to transgender people as early as 1960;

Whereas, beginning in 1963, Army medical standards disqualified people with “behavioral disorders”, which was defined to include transgender people, from service in the Army;

Whereas, for 30 years, beginning in the mid-1980s, Department of Defense regulations declared transgender people to be both physically and mentally disordered and abnormal and continued to disqualify transgender people from military service;

Whereas, in 1982, the Department of Defense implemented a policy stating that “homosexuality is incompatible with military service”, and between 1980 and 1990, an average of 1,500 military servicemembers were discharged every year on the basis of their sexual orientation;

Whereas, in 1993, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103–160; 107 Stat. 1547), Congress enacted the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, which declared that the presence of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the Armed Forces was an “unacceptable risk” to morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion, and required the Armed Forces to discharge servicemembers who—

(1) engaged in, attempted to engage in, or solicited “homosexual acts”;

(2) stated that they were homosexual or bisexual; or

(3) married or attempted to marry a same-sex partner;

Whereas the Department of Defense has acknowledged that 13,472 personnel were discharged from the Armed Forces under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, and an additional 19,365 personnel were discharged between 1980 and 1993 under similar policies that targeted servicemembers based on sexual orientation;

Whereas the White House estimates that more than 100,000 servicemembers have been discharged from the Armed Forces for their sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas, on September 20, 2011, the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy was officially repealed, 60 days after President Barack Obama approved its repeal on July 22, 2011, by signing the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (10 U.S.C. 654 note; Public Law 111–321);

Whereas, on June 30, 2016, the Department of Defense announced an end to the ban on transgender servicemembers across all components of the Department of Defense;

Whereas, on July 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump announced that transgender people would not be allowed to serve in the military;

Whereas, on January 25, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed Executive Order 14004 (86 Fed. Reg. 7471; relating to enabling all qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform), which repealed the 2017 ban on transgender military servicemembers;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have taken steps to address the harms done to LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans under these discriminatory policies;

Whereas, in March 2021, the Secretary of Defense announced new policies to undo the President Trump-era rules banning transgender people from serving in the military;

Whereas those policies included a statement that the Defense Health Agency would develop clinical practice guidelines to support the medical treatment of servicemembers with gender dysphoria, a step that has not yet been completed;

Whereas, on June 19, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs would remove the exclusion of gender-affirming surgery from the Veterans Affairs Medical Benefits package, but the Department of Veterans Affairs has yet to fulfill that promise;

Whereas, on September 20, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs issued the “Benefits Eligibility for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Former Service Members (VIEWS 5810856)” memorandum detailing how certain former servicemembers discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy with “other than honorable” discharges could begin to access full veterans benefits;

Whereas, on September 20, 2023, the Deputy Secretary of Defense announced that the Department of Defense would proactively review the military records of certain veterans discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy to identify those who may be eligible for discharge upgrades;

Whereas, on April 25, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs posted a final rule eliminating the regulatory bar for “homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or other factors affecting the performance of duty” as an obstacle to benefits, which could help reduce the disparity that LGBTQ+ veterans face in applying for their benefits;

Whereas, on June 26, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden pardoned veterans who had been convicted in military courts for consensual sodomy between 1951 and 2013 under former article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

Whereas, on January 27, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 14183 (90 Fed. Reg. 8757; relating to prioritizing military excellence and readiness), which reinstated the ban on transgender servicemembers and directed the Department of Defense to end its usage of pronouns and prevent transgender people from using facilities that align with their gender identity;

Whereas, on February 7, 2025, the Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum halting all gender-affirming medical procedures for servicemembers;

Whereas, on February 26, 2025, the Department of Defense announced that transgender and nonbinary servicemembers are “no longer eligible for military service” and “will be processed for separation from military service”;

Whereas, on March 17, 2025, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will no longer offer gender-affirming hormone therapy to veterans who were not already receiving such care; and

Whereas challenges still exist for LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans seeking equitable treatment in service and access to benefits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 20, 2025, as “National LGBTQ+ Servicemembers and Veterans Day”;

(2) celebrates the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this resolution as “LGBTQ+”) servicemembers and veterans who have served in the Armed Forces;

(3) regrets the harm done to LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy and earlier policies, bans on transgender servicemembers, and other policies that discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

(4) recognizes how “other than honorable” and “dishonorable” discharges given to LGBTQ+ servicemembers on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity—

(A) prematurely terminated the careers of LGBTQ+ servicemembers in the Armed Forces;

(B) subjected LGBTQ+ servicemembers to the trauma of investigations and criminal charges;

(C) unfairly denied LGBTQ+ servicemembers the honor associated with military service;

(D) deprived LGBTQ+ servicemembers of benefits those servicemembers have earned and deserve as veterans; and

(E) continue to cause LGBTQ+ servicemembers dignitary harm;

(5) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense—

(A) to implement policy changes that restore justice and right wrongs caused by past and present government-sponsored discrimination; and

(B) to conduct further outreach to LGBTQ+ service member and veteran communities to ensure that those discharged based on their sexual orientation and gender identity can receive their benefits;

(6) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to ensure that transgender veterans and servicemembers and their families have access to the full range of health care, including gender-affirming care; and

(7) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to remove the exclusion of gender-affirming surgery from the Veterans Affairs Medical Benefits Package.

SENATE RESOLUTION 409—RECOGNIZING THE 74TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES AND THE STRONG BILATERAL SECURITY ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS IN THE WAKE OF ESCALATING AGGRESSION AND POLITICAL LAWFARE BY THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 409

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have maintained diplomatic relations for 79 years, founded on the basis of deeply interconnected strategic and economic interests and close bonds between our two populations;

Whereas the United States-Philippines partnership was forged in blood, as more than 20,000 Americans and hundreds of thousands of Filipinos were killed during the Philippines campaigns during World War II;

Whereas, following the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Philippines from 1941 to 1945, the former United States commonwealth secured its official independence on July 4, 1946;

Whereas, in March 1947, the United States and the Philippines signed a Military Bases Agreement;

Whereas, on August 30, 1951, the United States and the Philippines signed a Mutual Defense Treaty;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty makes clear the United States-Philippine collective intent to resolve international disputes

peacefully, undertake separate and joint development of the capacity to resist attack, and consult with one another when the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of the United States or the Philippines is under threat of external armed attack in the Pacific;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty is the foundation of our security alliance and all other enabling defense agreements between the United States and the Philippines, including the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement;

Whereas the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement allows for a strengthened United States military presence in the Philippines to increase bilateral cooperation and interoperability and to provide training to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, with increased rotation of United States military personnel and assistance devoted to strengthening the territorial defense and humanitarian and maritime operations of the Philippines;

Whereas, in February 2023, the United States and the Philippines committed to designating four additional locations under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, increasing the total from five to nine;

Whereas those locations have strategic value for the United States and the Philippines, increase confidence in the alliance, and provide real opportunities for operational cooperation to advance shared security priorities;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty serves as a deterrent against the increasing territorial aggression by the People’s Republic of China in the South China Sea;

Whereas, in 2009, the People’s Republic of China began unlawfully extending its territorial and sovereignty claims in the South China Sea under its “nine-dash line” construct, violating the territorial rights and internationally recognized exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas, since 2014, the People’s Republic of China has substantially expanded its ability to monitor and project power throughout the South China Sea via the construction of militarized artificial islands;

Whereas, on September 25, 2015, at the White House, President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping stated that “China does not intend to pursue militarization” of the Spratly Islands and China’s outposts would not “target or impact any country”;

Whereas, on July 12, 2016, the arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea unanimously decided to invalidate the People’s Republic of China’s claim to nearly 90 percent of the South China Sea, including areas determined by the tribunal to be part of the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone and continental shelf;

Whereas, despite the decision being final and legally binding, the People’s Republic of China, which refused to participate in the arbitration, has continued to reject and further violate the decision;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has employed a variety of assertive and aggressive tactics against the Philippines, including through its coast guard, research vessels, and commercial maritime vessels, to coerce and enforce its arbitrary and unlawful territorial claims in the South China Sea, such as by ramming, shadowing, blocking, encircling, firing water cannons at, and using military-grade lasers against Philippine civilian ships and military vessels;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has repeatedly denied the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to