

(7) jailing women human rights defenders; and

(8) limiting access to women's healthcare, including preventative and emergency services, and requiring a male chaperone at most clinics and hospitals;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (commonly referred to as "UNICEF")—

(1) globally, 1 in 5 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 have been victims of some form of physical violence;

(2) approximately 370,000,000 girls and young women worldwide, about 1 in 8, have experienced forced sexual acts before the age of 18; and

(3) an estimated 1 in 3 women around the world have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence;

Whereas the overall level of violence against women is a better predictor of the peacefulness of a country, the compliance of a country with international treaty obligations, and the relations of a country with neighboring countries than indicators measuring the level of democracy, level of wealth, or level of institutionalization of the country;

Whereas women around the world remain vastly underrepresented in government positions, as women account for only 26.9 percent of national parliamentarians and 23.3 percent of government ministers;

Whereas the ability of women and girls to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a country to achieve strong and lasting economic growth, self-reliance, and political and social stability;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization—

(1) approximately 122,000,000 girls between the ages of 6 and 17 remain out of school;

(2) girls living in countries affected by conflict are 2.5 times more likely to be out of primary school than boys;

(3) girls are twice as likely as boys to never set foot in a classroom; and

(4) up to 30 percent of girls who drop out of school do so because of adolescent pregnancy or child marriage;

Whereas women around the world face a variety of constraints that severely limit their economic participation and productivity and remain underrepresented in the labor force;

Whereas, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations—

(1) agriculture and food systems are a major source of livelihoods, particularly for rural women;

(2) wage and productivity gaps persist in agriculture and food systems, despite the crucial role that women play in those sectors;

(3) the work of women in agriculture and food systems is more likely than that of men to be part-time, irregular, informal, vulnerable, labor-intensive, and low-skilled;

(4) in countries reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 5.a.1, more men than women are owners of or have rights to agricultural land; and

(5) the empowerment of women can have important benefits for agricultural productivity, nutrition, and food security;

Whereas the economic empowerment of women is inextricably linked to a myriad of other internationally recognized human rights that are essential to the ability of women to thrive as economic actors, including—

(1) living lives free of violence and exploitation;

(2) achieving the highest possible standard of health and well-being;

(3) enjoying full legal and human rights, such as access to registration, identification,

and citizenship documents, and freedom of movement;

(4) access to formal and informal education;

(5) access to, and equal protection under, land and property rights;

(6) access to fundamental labor rights;

(7) the implementation of policies to address disproportionate care burdens; and

(8) receiving business and management skills and leadership opportunities;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, global maternal mortality decreased by approximately 34 percent from 2000 to 2020, yet approximately 800 women and girls continue to die from preventable causes relating to pregnancy or childbirth each day, and 95 percent of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries, putting the global community off-track to meeting Sustainable Development Goal 3.1 for reducing maternal deaths;

Whereas the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022, has resulted in a disproportionate number of women and children seeking safety outside of Ukraine;

Whereas those women and girls, like women and girls in all humanitarian emergencies, including those subject to forced displacement, face increased and exacerbated vulnerabilities to—

(1) gender-based violence, including rape, child marriage, domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation and assault;

(2) disruptions in education and livelihood;

(3) lack of access to health services; and

(4) food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas malnutrition poses a variety of threats to women and girls specifically, as malnutrition can weaken their immune systems, making them more susceptible to infections, and affects their capacity to survive childbirth, and children born of malnourished women and girls are more likely to have cognitive impairments and higher risk of disease throughout their lives;

Whereas it is imperative—

(1) to alleviate violence and discrimination against women and girls; and

(2) to afford women and girls every opportunity to be equal members of their communities; and

Whereas March 8, 2026, is recognized as International Women's Day, a global day—

(1) to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the past, present, and future; and

(2) to recognize the obstacles that women face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) strongly supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the fundamental human rights of women and girls have intrinsic value that affect the quality of life of women and girls;

(3) recognizes that the full empowerment of women and girls is inextricably linked to the potential of a country to generate—

(A) economic growth and self-reliance;

(B) sustainable peace, democracy, and good governance; and

(C) inclusive security;

(4) recognizes and honors individuals in the United States and around the world, including women human rights defenders, activists, and civil society leaders, who have worked throughout history to ensure that women and girls are guaranteed equality and fundamental human rights;

(5) applauds the women around the world who stand against oppression in any form and fight for a better future, especially in Ukraine, Iran, and Afghanistan;

(6) recognizes the unique cultural, historical, and religious differences throughout the

world and urges the United States Government to act with respect and understanding toward legitimate differences when promoting any policies;

(7) reaffirms the commitment—

(A) to end discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(B) to ensure the safety, health, education, and welfare of women and girls;

(C) to pursue policies that guarantee the fundamental human rights of women and girls worldwide; and

(D) to promote meaningful and significant participation of women in every aspect of society and community, including conflict prevention, protection, peacemaking, and peacebuilding;

(8) supports sustainable, measurable, and global development that seeks to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and

(9) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 641—RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON ITS 114TH BIRTHDAY AND CELEBRATING ITS LEGACY OF PROVIDING GIRLS WITH A SUPPORTIVE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE WHERE THEY CAN EXPLORE THEIR WORLD, BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS, AND HAVE ACCESS TO EXPERIENCES THAT PREPARE THEM FOR A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 641

Whereas March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the United States of America (referred to in this preamble as "Girl Scouts"), was founded with a mission to "build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place";

Whereas reflecting upon the 250th anniversary of the signing the Declaration of Independence, Girl Scouts is an important part of the story of the United States as it launched a girl-led movement that celebrates girls' independent spirits and encourages them to embrace their unique strengths and forge their own opportunities;

Whereas Girl Scouts, at its core, embodies a commitment to community through service and civic engagement, and Girl Scouts members are active across the country every day, showing up to serve, lead, and make a difference in their communities;

Whereas Gold Award Girl Scouts are trailblazers who collectively dedicate hundreds of thousands of hours to tackle the most pressing challenges facing their communities and beyond with measurable, long-lasting, and far-reaching results;

Whereas the Girl Scout Leadership Experience offers girls 21st-century programming in science, technology, engineering, and math, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and beyond, encouraging girls to make meaningful connections and develop invaluable life skills along the way;

Whereas 2026 marks the 100th World Thinking Day, an annual celebration hosted by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and celebrated by Girl Scouts in its

153 member organizations, that uplifts international friendship, reflects on our global Girl Scout movement, and celebrates girls' voices on important issues that affect girls and young women across the world; and

Whereas, in July 2026, Girl Scouts will host "the 58th National Council Session and the Girl Scouts Unite event: Celebrating all the ways that Girl Scouts make history" in Washington, D.C., a convention where more than 10,000 Girl Scouts members, alums, and supporters will gather to explore, celebrate, and reflect upon the history of the Girl Scout movement alongside fellow change-makers, dreamers, and doers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Girl Scouts of the United States of America for 114 years of providing girls with the skills necessary to navigate life with purpose and joy, by offering unique experiences, and the support girls need to discover their interests, build self-confidence, and become agents of change as global citizens;

(2) congratulates all Girl Scouts members who earned the Gold Award in 2025; and

(3) encourages Girl Scouts of the United States of America to continue to champion the ambitions, nurture the creativity, and support the talents of future women leaders.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 642—CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YMCA)**

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 642**

Whereas the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) marks its 175th anniversary, having been founded in the United States by Thomas Valentine Sullivan at the Old South Church in Boston on December 29, 1851, inspired by the YMCA movement in England with a mission to put Christian principles into practice by building healthy spirit, mind, and body for all;

Whereas the YMCA has continually adapted to meet evolving needs of communities in the United States, strengthening society by bringing people together, fostering relationships, and creating a sense of belonging;

Whereas the YMCA's legacy includes—

(1) being proudly headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, a city that has long served as a pillar of civic leadership, innovation, and community service, and whose values are proudly reflected in the YMCA's mission and work nationwide;

(2) providing safe housing during the Industrial Revolution;

(3) inventing basketball;

(4) launching the first night school and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes;

(5) delivering the first group swim lessons;

(6) leading humanitarian efforts during wartime, including the work of YMCA leader and President Wilson's General Secretary for the National War Work Council, John R. Mott, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for his work on the Council;

(7) establishing the Youth and Government Program in 1936, one of the oldest and largest youth civics education programs in the United States;

(8) serving as the birthplace of Father's Day, with the first celebration held at the Spokane YMCA in 1910;

(9) serving as the Nation's leading non-profit provider of early childcare and edu-

cation, before and afterschool programs, and summer camp programs, since the 1970s; and

(10) serving as the leading provider of emergency childcare for essential personnel, nutrition assistance, and remote learning spaces during the pandemic;

Whereas, as of 2026, the YMCA has approximately 2,600 locations that serve more than 10,000 communities in every State and territory, with more than 300,000 employees and 350,000 volunteers delivering essential programs to over 17,000,000 people annually, including almost 11,000,000 adults and 6,500,000 children and youth;

Whereas the YMCA is a leader in providing swim lessons, camping, youth sports, child nutrition programs, lifestyle health, fitness, and well-being programs and is the largest provider of fitness programs for older adults;

Whereas the YMCA serves people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, creating spaces where all people feel welcome, are treated with respect, and find opportunities to connect with their neighbors;

Whereas YMCAs across the United States are working to build stronger, more connected communities through intentional experiences that help people achieve their goals, foster connection, and promote well-being in order to build relationships and thrive; and

Whereas, in 2026, YMCAs nationwide will host special events that celebrate the moments, programs, and people who've shaped their story: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and expresses appreciation to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) for 175 years of service to the United States;

(2) recognizes the YMCA's role in responding to community needs, connecting people, fostering support, and building relationships and a sense of belonging;

(3) commends the hundreds of thousands of staff and volunteers who create connected communities and advance the YMCA's mission to build healthy spirits, minds, and bodies for all; and

(4) encourages continued support for the efforts to address social isolation and loneliness by creating places and spaces that promote achievement, well-being, and connection and help people build relationships and thrive.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have four 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 in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

**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 Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a nomination hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

**CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YMCA)**

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 642, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 642) celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 642) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026**

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, March 16; 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 673; finally, that the cloture motion with respect to the St. John nomination ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026, AT 3 P.M.**

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