

by a genetic counselor (as defined in paragraph (2)) and such services and supplies furnished as an incident to the provision of such services which the genetic counselor is legally authorized to perform under State law (or the State regulatory mechanism provided by State law) as would otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician (or as incident to a physician's service).

“(2) The term ‘genetic counselor’ means an individual who—

“(A) is licensed as a genetic counselor by the State in which the individual furnishes genetic counseling services; or

“(B) in the case of an individual practicing in a State that does not license genetic counselors, is certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling and meets such other criteria as the Secretary establishes.”.

(b) **BALANCE BILLING.**—Section 1842(b)(18)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(ix) A genetic counselor (as defined in section 1861(nnn)(2)).”.

(c) **PAYMENT.**—Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and (HH)” and inserting “(HH)”; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and (II) with respect to covered genetic counseling services (as defined in section 1861(nnn)(1)), the amount paid shall be equal to 80 percent of the lesser of (i) the actual charge for the services or (ii) 85 percent of the fee schedule amount provided under section 1848 that would have applied had the genetic counseling services been furnished by a physician”.

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 1862(a)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395(y)(a)(14)) is amended by inserting “covered genetic counseling services,” after “qualified psychologist services.”.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The amendments made by this section shall not be construed as preventing physicians and health care providers other than genetic counselors from billing for genetic counseling services under the Medicare program which are otherwise covered under such program.

(f) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section by interim final rule with comment period.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3609. A bill to establish a community protection and wildfire resilience grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Act. This crucial piece of legislation would help local communities defend themselves from the growing and pressing danger of wildfires.

This bill would empower communities to implement science-based methods for mitigating wildfire damage and provide funding to design and implement new Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Plans with community members, first responders, and relevant State agencies.

Today, is the 1-year anniversary of the devastating Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles that taught us all that not all wildfires are forest fires and as such Federal preparedness ef-

forts need to be improved and streamlined to ensure that we better prepared when the next natural disaster strikes. We increasingly see wildfires in the wildland urban interface, and we must do more to prepare and harden our communities. As the countless fires in my State and across the West have shown us, we need to increase Federal support for communities to mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

The Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Act would work towards this goal by establishing guidelines for communities to conceptualize new Community Protection and Wildfire Resilience Plans, CPWRP, that are developed in coordination with community members, first responders, and relevant State agencies.

This bill will achieve this through improving early detection technology, public outreach and education, alerts and warnings, evacuation planning, evacuation execution, and access for first responders; addressing vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those with disabilities; hardening critical infrastructure and homes; applying community-scale defensible space across contiguous areas; building local capacity to implement and oversee the plan; deploying distributed energy resources; implementing strategic land use planning; educating community members; and coordinating with existing wildfire plans like a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Aside from this, the bill will provide grants for at-risk communities, complete a report on existing programs to protect communities from wildfires, and it will allow for structure hardening that will help build more fire resilient communities.

I would like to thank my colleague Senator SHEEHY for being a great partner here in the Senate to advance and put forth commonsense wildfire legislation that will help Western States and the country become better equipped to respond to increasing wildfires. I also want to express my appreciation to Representatives HUFFMAN and OBERNOLTE for leading this effort on the House side.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this bill this Congress to ensure that communities are better equipped to meet the growing threat of fires.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 576—COM- MENDING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACTION IN VEN- EZUELA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 576

Whereas, on January 3, 2026, the United States military executed a flawless, large-scale operation across Caracas, Venezuela, resulting in the successful capture of narco-terrorist Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores;

Whereas that operation, codenamed Operation Absolute Resolve, was the culmination of months of planning, intelligence gathering, and joint military cooperation, demonstrating exceptional strategic execution and timing;

Whereas the raid effectively removed indicted cartel leader Nicolás Maduro from power without prolonged occupation, allowing United States forces to withdraw after achieving the objective with no American lives lost;

Whereas Maduro and Flores were transported to the United States to face longstanding Federal charges, including narco-terrorism conspiracy, cocaine importation conspiracy, and possession of machine guns and destructive devices;

Whereas the people of Venezuela, because of the bold and strong action of the United States administration, now have a path to liberty and prosperity first laid out by the brave Venezuelan opposition led by Edmundo Gonzalez, the duly elected President of Venezuela, and Maria Corina Machado; and

Whereas President Trump, his administration, and the United States military are to be commended for their bold leadership, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to justice and protecting the American people by executing the operation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Operation Absolute Resolve for its precision, efficiency, and role in addressing longstanding regional instability in Latin America; and

(2) emphasizes that this bold action will pave the way for democratic transitions in Venezuela and promote regional stability in the Western Hemisphere.

SENATE RESOLUTION 577—OBSERV- ING THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2025 SOUTHERN CALI- FORNIA WILDFIRES

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

S. RES. 577

Whereas a series of wildfires, exacerbated by extreme Santa Ana winds and dry conditions, broke out in Los Angeles County and its adjacent counties on January 7, 2025;

Whereas the wildfires burned nearly 60,000 acres across the region, killed 31 people, destroyed over 16,000 structures, and displaced over 200,000 Southern Californians;

Whereas the 2 largest fires, the Palisades Fire in the Pacific Palisades and the Eaton Fire in Altadena, burned a combined 37,000 acres and destroyed over 16,000 structures;

Whereas the wildfires devastated homes, schools, businesses, places of worship, and entire neighborhoods;

Whereas the wildfires caused losses that make it one of the costliest natural disasters in the history of the United States;

Whereas more than 7,500 firefighting emergency personnel were deployed to fight the unprecedented fires;

Whereas firefighters and first responders from across California, from the United States Navy and the United States Forest Service, from departments in Oregon, Washington, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Montana, Texas, Canada, Mexico, and from 12

Tribal nations mobilized to respond to the fires;

Whereas the firefighters and first responders risked life and limb to preserve and protect lives and property;

Whereas hundreds of volunteers worked tirelessly to tend to those who had lost their homes or loved ones;

Whereas individuals across the United States and around the world expressed their support and sorrow for those affected by the fires;

Whereas, 1 year later, the rebuilding process in the Pacific Palisades, Altadena, and other communities across Southern California continues; and

Whereas continued coordination between Federal, State, and local authorities is required to ensure that those affected by the fires obtain the relief and support they need: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and remembers those who lost their lives in the wildfires;

(2) recognizes and commends the bravery and selflessness of the first responders who risked their lives to respond and extinguish the wildfires; and

(3) affirms its commitment to helping Southern California communities continue to rebuild.

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEN'S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2025 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION 1 MEN'S SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 578

Whereas, on December 15, 2025, the University of Washington Huskies men's soccer team (the "Washington Huskies") secured a 3-2 overtime win against No. 15 seed North Carolina State to win the national championship before an estimated 10,000 fans;

Whereas this win marks the first national title in program history;

Whereas, during the 2025 playoffs, the Washington Huskies defeated the Oregon State Beavers, the Southern Methodist University Mustangs, the Stanford Cardinal, the Maryland Terrapins, and the Furman Paladins, before defeating the North Carolina State Wolfpack in the championship game to win the College Cup;

Whereas Zach Ramsey and Joe Dale scored the 2 goals during regulation time and Harrison "Harry" Bertos scored the winning goal for the Washington Huskies during overtime in the championship game;

Whereas every member of the Washington Huskies men's soccer team contributed to the successful 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I National Championship season and the championship match;

Whereas the coaches and staff of the Washington Huskies men's soccer team played a vital role in the success of the Washington Huskies during the 2025 season;

Whereas the Washington Huskies overcame a 3-game losing streak at the end of the regular season to win all 6 of their NCAA tournament games away from home, becoming the first team to win 6 road matches in the tournament; and

Whereas the Washington Huskies showed immense strength, resilience, and teamwork

to win the national championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Washington men's soccer team for an incredible season and for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 Men's Soccer National Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the team's success; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Jamie Clark, head coach;

(B) Patrick Chun, athletic director; and

(C) Dr. Robert J. Jones, president of the University of Washington.

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SOCIAL SECURITY MUST BE PRESERVED, PROTECTED, AND STRENGTHENED FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 579

Whereas, on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) into law, establishing a foundational commitment by the United States to provide economic security for its senior citizens;

Whereas the Social Security program has served as the cornerstone of retirement security for generations of individuals in the United States, providing vital retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to millions;

Whereas the Social Security program has successfully paid scheduled benefits throughout its 90-year history, delivering on the promise earned by workers in the United States and their families through a lifetime of contributions;

Whereas the Social Security program remains the primary source of income for millions of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and surviving family members, and its continued strength is vital to the economic well-being of the United States;

Whereas the Social Security program faces significant long-term financial challenges that require thoughtful and responsible action to ensure its continued stability and effectiveness;

Whereas preserving and strengthening the Social Security program is a bipartisan responsibility that requires cooperation and leadership from policymakers; and

Whereas increased public awareness, education, and dialogue are essential to ensure that the Social Security program remains strong and solvent for current and future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its bipartisan commitment to preserving and protecting the Social Security program for current and future generations;

(2) affirms that an automatic, across-the-board cut in benefits would disrupt the retirement security of tens of millions of people in the United States and must be avoided; and

(3) calls upon Members of Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to develop and enact

legislation that ensures the long-term solvency of the Social Security program and protects seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families in the United States for generations to come.

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO PROMINENTLY DISPLAY, IN A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE LOCATION IN THE SENATE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, A PLAQUE HONORING THE MEMBERS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONDING ON JANUARY 6, 2021, UNTIL THE PLAQUE CAN BE PLACED IN ITS PERMANENT LOCATION

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

S. RES. 580

Whereas the United States owes its deepest gratitude to those officers of the United States Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, as well as officers from other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and protective entities, who valiantly protected the United States Capitol, Members of Congress, and staff on January 6, 2021;

Whereas section 214 of division I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (2 U.S.C. 2131 note prec.; 136 Stat. 527) directed that a plaque be placed on the western front of the United States Capitol to honor the extraordinary individuals who bravely protected and defended this symbol of democracy on January 6, 2021; and

Whereas their heroism should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Architect of the Capitol shall prominently display the plaque produced pursuant to section 214 of division I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (2 U.S.C. 2131 note prec.; 136 Stat. 527) in a publicly accessible location in the Senate wing of the United States Capitol until such time as the plaque can be placed at a permanent location on the western front of the United States Capitol.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25—RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JANUARY 8, 2011, TUCSON, ARIZONA, SHOOTING AND HONORING THE SURVIVORS AND VICTIMS, INCLUDING FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN GABBY GIFFORDS, A GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVOR AND ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL VOICES OF COURAGE IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIGHT TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KIM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. CORTEZ