

benefit all households and businesses in the United States; and

(C) relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, should support and facilitate the implementation of the commitments made in the Ratepayer Protection Pledge, including by working with private companies to expedite the permitting and interconnection of new energy generation resources; and

(2) Congress encourages additional artificial intelligence companies, hyperscalers, data center operators, and technology firms that have not yet signed the Ratepayer Protection Pledge to voluntarily adopt equivalent commitments without delay.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 31—RECOGNIZING THE DUTY OF CONGRESS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF WORKING WOMEN

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 31

Whereas the Congress recognizes its obligation to guarantee equal protection of the law to all workers;

Whereas this obligation requires the Congress to safeguard workers from unequal treatment on the basis of real or perceived sex, gender, or nonconformity to norms or stereotypes thereof;

Whereas working families are working paycheck to paycheck and deserve a quality, affordable life, which can only be made possible by addressing the needs of the approximately 75,000,000 women in the workforce;

Whereas recent executive and administration actions have caused disproportionate harm to women in the broader rollback of workplace rights, freedoms, and protections;

Whereas women comprise nearly half of the Nation's workforce, and are essential to the economic stability, growth, and prosperity of the United States, and make indispensable contributions across every sector of the economy, serving as leaders in education, health care, public service, caregiving, and other vital industries;

Whereas persistent wage disparities, loopholes in section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (commonly known as the "Equal Pay Act of 1963") (29 U.S.C. 206(d)), occupational segregation, workplace discrimination, and gender-based violence and harassment continue to disproportionately burden working women, particularly women of color;

Whereas recent progress toward pay parity and gender equity has been undermined by deliberate, coordinated opposition, including legislative, administrative, and judicial actions weakening civil rights enforcement, removing workplace protections, limiting access to essential health care, and destabilizing programs that support working families;

Whereas the administration has specifically targeted for elimination such Federal programs which advance gender equity in the Nation and abroad;

Whereas actions of the President have threatened to eliminate the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, which was established by Congress in 1920 and is the only Federal agency tasked with advancing economic opportunity for working women and

which, for more than 100 years, has concretely worked to improve the wages and working conditions for women across the Nation;

Whereas the targeted elimination of equal opportunity obligations under apprenticeship programs of the Department of Labor has undermined women's pathways to high-paid careers in the trades traditionally dominated by men;

Whereas the rescission of the "Enforcement Guidance on Harassment in the Workplace" of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has created intentional confusion and left women vulnerable to harassment in the workplace;

Whereas reductions in staffing, funding, and enforcement capacity at Federal agencies charged with protecting workers' rights and enforcing civil rights laws have weakened oversight of workplace discrimination, harassment, wage theft, and retaliation;

Whereas women are disproportionately represented in public sector employment, and cuts to public programs and services disproportionately threaten women's employment, wages, and retirement security;

Whereas the administration has undertaken reckless mass layoffs which gutted Federal agencies with majority-women workforces, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of the Treasury, and Department of Housing and Urban Development;

Whereas not only are women of color and immigrant women overrepresented in care work, but the critical caregiving services women provide are often otherwise taken on as unpaid labor by women;

Whereas the lack of Federal actions to create a robust, well-paid care industry harms women's economic opportunity and directly exploits some of the most vulnerable women;

Whereas the administration has unjustly sought to push Federal contractors, grant recipients, and even private employers to abandon efforts to promote gender and racial equity at work;

Whereas the administration has sought to erode workers' ability to form unions and collectively bargain for their rights, who organized as such have won a narrower gender pay gap;

Whereas, consequently—

(1) data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate volatility in women's labor force participation in 2025, with more than 455,000 women exiting the workforce in the United States and the steepest declines among mothers of young children, especially Black mothers;

(2) unemployment among women, especially Black women, has increased under the Administration, with Black women's unemployment greater than 7 percent; and

(3) the wage gap between women and men has increased for 2 consecutive years, highlighting the compounded effects of the policy failures described herein;

Whereas women continue to face barriers to economic advancement, and disproportionate caregiving responsibilities, all of which are exacerbated by the cost of living crisis and rising costs of housing, health care, childcare, food, and education; and

Whereas Congress, the first branch of the United States Government, has a duty to act decisively to advance the rights and freedoms of working women in face of these barriers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes an affirmative duty to ensure women have equal opportunity within the workforce, as a prerequisite for economic security, democratic participation, shared

prosperity, and full participation in public life;

(2) recognizes that the workforce of the Nation is stronger, more innovative, and more competitive when women are able to contribute and lead across all industries;

(3) affirms its commitment to economic prosperity for all, including—

(A) equal pay for equal work;

(B) pay transparency;

(C) workplaces free from discrimination;

(D) workplace safety standards and regulations designed to protect the health of the Nation's workers;

(E) comprehensive and accessible health care, including reproductive health care;

(F) affordable, high-quality childcare and early education;

(G) paid family and medical leave;

(H) paid sick days;

(I) predictable scheduling and fair labor standards; and

(J) access to affordable housing, education, and workforce development opportunities;

(4) affirms its commitment to ensuring that all women, regardless of race, immigration status, language, or occupation, are able to work with dignity, free from violence, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and abuse;

(5) recognizes the value of all work, especially domestic and part-time work, and recognizes its obligation to ensure that such work is dignified with fair pay, benefits, protections, and working conditions;

(6) condemns actions and policies that weaken civil rights enforcement, undermine workplace protections, reduce access to health care and essential services, or otherwise threaten the economic security of working women;

(7) commits itself to restoring and strengthening Federal agencies that combat discrimination in the workplace, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs;

(8) reaffirms its commitment to ensuring all people can live a life with dignity by raising wages, including by raising the Federal minimum wage, and eliminating tipped and subminimum wages;

(9) reaffirms its commitment to expanding access to high-paying jobs across gender lines by strengthening programs that dismantle occupational segregation;

(10) recognizes the right of every worker to join a union, free from interference and intimidation, and bargain collectively for fair wages and working conditions;

(11) calls upon Federal, State, and local governments, employers, labor organizations, and community institutions to work collaboratively to ensure that all working women have the opportunity to thrive and be free from harassment and discrimination; and

(12) declares that addressing the immediate needs of working women is essential to the prosperity of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4779. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1383, to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4780. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4732 proposed by Mr. HUSTED to the amendment SA 4420 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCHMITT) to the bill S. 1383, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4781. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4732 proposed by Mr. HUSTED to the amendment SA 4420 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCHMITT) to the bill S. 1383, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4782. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4732 proposed by Mr. HUSTED to the amendment SA 4420 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mr. SCHMITT) to the bill S. 1383, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4783. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1383, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4784. Mr. JUSTICE proposed an amendment to the bill S. 858, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

SA 4785. Mr. THUNE (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 648, honoring the memory, service, and sacrifice of Master Sergeant Nicole M. Amor, United States Army Reserve.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4779. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1383, to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Redistricting Reform Act of 2026”.

(b) **FINDING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.**—Congress finds that it has the authority to establish the terms and conditions States must follow in carrying out congressional redistricting after an apportionment of Members of the House of Representatives because—

(1) the authority granted to Congress under article I, section 4 of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to enact laws governing the time, place, and manner of elections for Members of the House of Representatives;

(2) the authority granted to Congress under section 5 of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution gives Congress the power to enact laws to enforce section 2 of such amendment, which requires Representatives to be apportioned among the several States according to their number;

(3) the authority granted to Congress under section 5 of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution gives Congress the power to enact laws to enforce section 1 of such amendment, including protections against excessive partisan gerrymandering that Federal courts have not enforced because they understand such enforcement to be committed to Congress by the Constitution;

(4) of the authority granted to Congress to enforce article IV, section 4, of the Constitution, and the guarantee of a Republican Form of Government to every State, which Federal courts have not enforced because they understand such enforcement to be committed to Congress by the Constitution; and

(5) requiring States to use uniform redistricting criteria is an appropriate and important exercise of such authority.

(c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; statement of constitutional authority; table of contents.

TITLE I—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

Sec. 101. Requiring congressional redistricting to be conducted through plan of independent State commission.

Sec. 102. Ban on mid-decade redistricting.

Sec. 103. Criteria for redistricting.

TITLE II—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Sec. 201. Independent redistricting commission.

Sec. 202. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.

Sec. 203. Public notice and input.

Sec. 204. Establishment of related entities.

Sec. 205. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.

TITLE III—ROLE OF COURTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLANS

Sec. 301. Failure by State to enact plan.

Sec. 302. Special rule for redistricting conducted under order of Federal court.

TITLE IV—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Payments to States for carrying out redistricting.

Sec. 402. Civil enforcement.

Sec. 403. State apportionment notice defined.

Sec. 404. No effect on elections for State and local office.

Sec. 405. Effective date.

TITLE I—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

SEC. 101. REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH PLAN OF INDEPENDENT STATE COMMISSION.

(a) **USE OF PLAN REQUIRED.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (c) and subsection (d), any congressional redistricting conducted by a State shall be conducted in accordance with—

(1) the redistricting plan developed and enacted into law by the independent redistricting commission established in the State, in accordance with title II; or

(2) if a plan developed by such commission is not enacted into law, the redistricting plan developed and enacted into law by a 3-judge court, in accordance with section 301.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 22(c) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for an apportionment of Representatives in Congress”, approved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a(c)), is amended by striking “in the manner provided by the law thereof” and inserting: “in the manner provided by the Redistricting Reform Act of 2026”.

(c) **SPECIAL RULE FOR EXISTING COMMISSIONS.**—Subsection (a) does not apply to any State in which, under law in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, congressional redistricting is carried out in accordance with a plan developed and approved by an independent redistricting commission which is in compliance with each of the following requirements:

(1) **PUBLICLY AVAILABLE APPLICATION PROCESS.**—Membership on the commission is open to citizens of the State through a publicly available application process.

(2) **DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENT.**—Indi-

viduals who, for a covered period of time as established by the State, hold or have held public office, individuals who are or have been candidates for elected public office, and individuals who serve or have served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a campaign committee of a candidate for public office are disqualified from serving on the commission.

(3) **SCREENING FOR CONFLICTS.**—Individuals who apply to serve on the commission are screened through a process that excludes persons with conflicts of interest from the pool of potential commissioners.

(4) **MULTI-PARTISAN COMPOSITION.**—Membership on the commission represents those who are affiliated with the two political parties whose candidates received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State, as well as those who are unaffiliated with any party or who are affiliated with political parties other than the two political parties whose candidates received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(5) **CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING.**—Members of the commission are required to meet certain criteria in the map drawing process, including minimizing the division of communities of interest and a ban on drawing maps to favor a political party.

(6) **PUBLIC INPUT.**—Public hearings are held and comments from the public are accepted before a final map is approved.

(7) **BROAD-BASED SUPPORT FOR APPROVAL OF FINAL PLAN.**—The approval of the final redistricting plan requires a majority vote of the members of the commission, including the support of at least one member of each of the following:

(A) Members who are affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(B) Members who are affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the second most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(C) Members who are not affiliated with any political party or who are affiliated with political parties other than the political parties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(d) **TREATMENT OF STATE OF IOWA.**—Subsection (a) does not apply to the State of Iowa, so long as congressional redistricting in such State is carried out in accordance with a plan developed by the Iowa Legislative Services Agency with the assistance of a Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission, under law which was in effect for the most recent congressional redistricting carried out in the State prior to the date of the enactment of this Act and which remains in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. BAN ON MID-DECADE REDISTRICTING.

(a) **BAN.**—A State that has been redistricted in accordance with this Act and a State described in section 101(c) or section 101(d) may not be redistricted again until after the next apportionment of Representatives under section 22(a) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for an apportionment of Representatives in Congress”, approved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a), unless a court requires the State to conduct such subsequent redistricting to comply with the Constitution of the United States, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), the Constitution of the State, or the terms or conditions of this Act.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF REMEDIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.**—Section 402 applies with respect to a violation of subsection (a) in the