

*Resolved*, That the Senate—  
 (1) designates April 2026 as “National Native Plant Month”; and  
 (2) recognizes the benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 666—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”**

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 666

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases might give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, United States consumers continue to purchase tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” for the 21st year will continue to raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—  
 (1) designates the first week of April as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of

this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 32—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY**

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 32

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility was founded in 2009 to honor the achievements and contributions of the transgender community;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is designed to be encompassing of a large community of diverse individuals;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate the lives and achievements of transgender individuals around the world and to recognize the bravery it takes to live openly and authentically;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is also a time to raise awareness about the discrimination and violence that the transgender community still faces, which make it difficult and even unsafe or fatal for many transgender individuals to be visible;

Whereas the transgender community has suffered oppression disproportionately in many ways, including—

- (1) discrimination in employment and in the workplace;
- (2) discrimination in health care and housing;
- (3) discrimination in access to public services and facilities;
- (4) discrimination in educational institutions; and
- (5) disproportionate exposure to victimization and violence;

Whereas forms of anti-transgender oppression are exacerbated for transgender individuals of color, transgender individuals with limited resources, transgender immigrants, transgender individuals living with disabilities, transgender justice-involved individuals, and transgender youth;

Whereas a record number of anti-transgender bills have been introduced in recent years at all levels of government, targeting areas such as—

- (1) education, including by prohibiting school staff from acknowledging or respecting transgender pupils, colleagues, and family members, barring transgender students from accessing gender-appropriate programs and facilities, and censoring curriculum that allows readers to explore and engage with differing perspectives;
- (2) health care, including restrictions on both medically necessary transition-related medical care and routine health care services;
- (3) public accommodations, such as safe access to public restrooms and facilities; and
- (4) identification documents, including by restricting the ability to realign or correct birth certificates and other forms of identification;

Whereas President Trump has issued multiple Executive Orders that attempt to erase transgender people, including Executive Order 14168 (90 Fed. Reg. 8615), Executive Order 14183 (90 Fed. Reg. 8757), Executive Order 14187 (90 Fed. Reg. 8771), Executive

Order 14190 (90 Fed. Reg. 8853), and Executive Order 14201 (90 Fed. Reg. 9279);

Whereas the transgender community and its allies have made it clear that transgender individuals will not be erased and deserve to be accorded all of the rights and opportunities made available to all;

Whereas, before the creation of the United States, Indigenous Two-Spirit transgender individuals existed across North America in many Native American communities, with specific terms in their own languages for these members of their communities and the social and spiritual roles they fulfilled, and while many were lost or actively suppressed by the efforts of missionaries, government agents, boarding schools, and settlers, Two-Spirit individuals have promoted increased public awareness in recent decades;

Whereas transgender individuals continue to tell their stories and push for full equity under the law;

Whereas the civil rights struggle has been strengthened and inspired by the leadership of the transgender community;

Whereas transgender individuals in the United States have made significant strides in elected office and political representation;

Whereas at least 36 States and the District of Columbia have at least 1 transgender elected official at the State or municipal level;

Whereas there are at least 23 openly transgender, gender-nonconforming, or non-binary elected officials in State legislatures;

Whereas voters in the State of Delaware elected Sarah McBride as the first openly transgender Member of the United States Congress;

Whereas voters in the State of Virginia elected Danica Roem as the first openly transgender State legislator in the United States;

Whereas voters in the State of Oklahoma elected Mauree Turner as the first openly nonbinary State legislator in the United States;

Whereas voters in the State of New Hampshire elected James Roesener as the first openly transgender man State legislator in the United States;

Whereas 6 States have at least 1 transgender or gender-nonconforming jurist on the bench;

Whereas more transgender individuals are appearing in movies, on television, and in all forms of media, raising awareness about their experiences and the importance of living authentically;

Whereas transgender individuals have created culture and history as artists, musicians, organizers, and leaders; and

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate the transgender community around the world: Now, therefore, be it

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

- (1) supports the goals and ideals of International Transgender Day of Visibility;
- (2) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Transgender Day of Visibility with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities;
- (3) celebrates the accomplishments and leadership of transgender individuals; and
- (4) recognizes the bravery of the transgender community as it fights for equal dignity and respect.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 4786. Mr. WARNOCK 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 4787. 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 4788. 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 4789. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4775 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 7147, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4790. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 7147, supra.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 4786.** Mr. WARNOCK 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Downpayment Toward Equity Act of 2026”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. First-generation downpayment assistance program.
- Sec. 4. Qualified homebuyers.
- Sec. 5. Eligible homes.
- Sec. 6. Eligible mortgage loans.
- Sec. 7. Housing counseling requirement.
- Sec. 8. Administrative costs.
- Sec. 9. Reports.
- Sec. 10. Compelling interest study.
- Sec. 11. Implementation.
- Sec. 12. Funding.

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHER FAIR HOUSING.**—The term “affirmatively further fair housing” has the same meaning as defined by the Secretary to implement section 808(e)(5) of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3608(e)(5)).

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) a minority depository institution, as defined in section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note);

(B) a community development financial institution, as defined in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702), that is certified by the Secretary of the Treasury and targets services to minority and low-income populations or provides services in neighborhoods having high concentrations of minority and low-income populations;

(C) any other nonprofit, mission-driven entity that the Secretary finds has a track record of providing assistance to homeowners, targets services to minority and low-income populations, or provides services in neighborhoods having high concentrations of minority and low-income populations; and

(D) a unit of general local government, as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302).

(3) **ELIGIBLE HOME.**—The term “eligible home” means a residential dwelling, including a unit in a condominium or cooperative project or a manufactured housing unit, that meets the requirements under section 5.

(4) **ELIGIBLE MORTGAGE LOAN.**—The term “eligible mortgage loan” means a residential mortgage loan that meets the requirements under section 6.

(5) **FIRST-GENERATION HOMEBUYER.**—The term “first-generation homebuyer” means a homebuyer that is—

(A) an individual—

(i) whose parents or legal guardians do not, or did not at the time of their death, to the best of the individual’s knowledge, have any present ownership interest in a residence in any State, excluding ownership of heir property or ownership of chattel; and

(ii) whose spouse or domestic partner has not, during the 3-year period ending upon acquisition of the eligible home to be acquired using such assistance, had any present ownership interest in a residence in any State, excluding ownership of heir property or ownership of chattel, whether the individual is a co-borrower on the loan or not; or

(B) an individual who has at any time been placed in foster care or institutional care whose spouse or domestic partner has not, during the 3-year period ending upon acquisition of the eligible home to be acquired using such assistance, had any ownership interest in a residence in any State, excluding ownership of heir property or ownership of chattel, whether such individuals are co-borrowers on the loan or not.

(6) **HEIR PROPERTY.**—The term “heir property” means residential property for which title passed by operation of law through intestacy and is held by 2 or more heirs as tenants in common.

(7) **OWNERSHIP INTEREST.**—The term “ownership interest” means any ownership, excluding any interest in heir property, in—

(A) real estate in fee simple;

(B) a leasehold on real estate under a lease for not less than 99 years which is renewable; or

(C) a fee interest in, or long-term leasehold interest in, real estate consisting of a 1-family unit in a multifamily project, including a project in which the dwelling units are attached, or are manufactured housing units, semi-detached, or detached, and an undivided interest in the common areas and facilities which serve the project.

(8) **QUALIFIED HOMEBUYER.**—The term “qualified homebuyer”—

(A) means a homebuyer who meets the requirements of section 4; and

(B) includes homebuyers consisting of multiple individuals, co-purchasers, and multi-member households.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(10) **SHARED EQUITY HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM.**—The term “shared equity homeownership program” means affordable homeownership preservation through a resale restriction program administered by a community land trust, other nonprofit organization, or State or local government or instrumentalities.

(11) **SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” means an individual who meets the following requirements:

(A) **SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The individual is a member of a socially disadvantaged group, whose members have historically been subjected to racial or ethnic discrimination within the United States because of their identity as members of such group without regard to their individual qualities.

(ii) **PRESUMPTION; REBUTTAL.**—An individual identifying as Black, Hispanic, Native American, or Asian American, or any combination thereof, shall be presumed to be socially disadvantaged for purposes of clause (i). Such presumption may be rebutted with credible evidence to the contrary.

(iii) **BURDEN OF PROOF.**—An individual who does not identify as described in clause (ii) shall be required to establish individual social disadvantage for purposes of clause (i) by a preponderance of the evidence.

(iv) **RULES.**—The Secretary may issue regulations as necessary to establish procedures for complying with this subparagraph.

(B) **ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE.**—The individual has an income that meets the requirements under section 4(a).

(12) **STATE.**—The term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the tribal government of any Indian tribe, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

### SEC. 3. FIRST-GENERATION DOWNPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall carry out a program under this Act to provide grants to States and eligible entities to provide financial assistance under this Act to first-generation homebuyers to assist them with acquiring owner-occupied primary residences.

(b) **ALLOCATION.**—After reserving amounts required under sections 7(d) and 9(b), any remaining amounts made available to carry out this Act shall be allocated as follows:

(1) **STATES.**—Seventy-five percent of such amounts shall be allocated among States in accordance with a formula established by the Secretary, which shall—

(A) take into consideration the best available data to provide more funding to States with a higher approximate number of potential qualified homebuyers; and

(B) be adjusted to reflect median area home prices.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—Twenty-five percent of such amounts shall be made available only to eligible entities on a competitive basis.

(c) **ASSISTANCE.**—Amounts from a grant under this Act may only be used to provide assistance—

(1) on behalf of a qualified homebuyer; and

(2) for—

(A) costs in connection with the acquisition, involving an eligible mortgage loan, of an eligible home, including downpayment costs, closing costs, and costs to reduce the rates of interest on eligible mortgage loans;

(B) subsidies to make shared equity homes affordable to homebuyers by discounting the price for which the home will be sold and to preserve the affordability of the home for subsequent homebuyers; and

(C) pre-occupancy home modifications required to accommodate qualified homebuyers or members of their household with disabilities.

(d) **AMOUNT.**—A grant of assistance under this Act—

(1) may be provided on behalf of any qualified homebuyer only once; and

(2) may not exceed the greater of \$20,000 or 10 percent of the purchase price in the case of a qualified homebuyer, excluding assistance received pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(C) for disability related home modifications, except that the Secretary may increase such maximum limitation amounts—

(A) for qualified homebuyers who are socially and economically disadvantaged; or