

(A) is an eligible-but-not-enrolled individual; or

(B) has the potential to be a qualifying low-income consumer under 54.409 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, due to the eligibility of the individual, a dependent of the individual, or the household of the individual to receive benefits from or participate in, as applicable, a program described in such section 54.409.

(3) **ELIGIBLE-BUT-NOT-ENROLLED INDIVIDUAL.**—The term “eligible-but-not-enrolled individual” means an individual who is a qualifying low-income consumer under section 54.409 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, but is not enrolled in the Lifeline program.

(4) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(5) **LIFELINE PROGRAM.**—The term “Lifeline program” means the program set forth in subpart E of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(6) **REACH.**—The term “reach” means, with respect to an individual, to inform the individual of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program and to provide the individual with information about the Lifeline program, as described in subsection (e).

(7) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each Indian Tribe.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Commission shall establish a competitive program to make grants available to States to inform covered individuals of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program.

(c) **APPLICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may only award a grant under this section to a State that submits an application at such time, in such form, and with such information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(2) **MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED.**—An application submitted by a State under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of covered individuals in the State;

(B) a plan for the activities that the State will conduct using grant funds, including a list of each agency within the State that will assist in carrying out those activities; and

(C) an estimate of the percentage of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in the State who will be reached by those activities.

(d) **SELECTION.**—

(1) **MINIMUM NUMBER OF STATES.**—The Commission shall award grants under this section to not fewer than 25 percent of the States that submit an application under subsection (c).

(2) **FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall give favorable consideration to—

(A) States that have higher numbers of covered individuals; and

(B) States proposing, in the plans submitted under subsection (c)(2)(B), to conduct activities that have the potential to reach higher percentages of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in those States, as determined by the Commission, taking into consideration the estimates submitted under subsection (c)(2)(C).

(3) **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall, to the maximum extent practicable, select States from different geographic regions of the United States.

(e) **USE OF FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A State that receives a grant under this section shall use grant

funds, in accordance with the plan included in the application of the State under subsection (c)(2)(B), to—

(A) inform covered individuals and organizations or agencies that serve covered individuals, as the case may be under the terms of the grant awarded to the State, of potential eligibility for the Lifeline program;

(B) provide covered individuals with information about the Lifeline program, including—

(i) how to apply for the Lifeline program; and

(ii) a description of the prohibition on more than 1 subscriber in each household receiving a service provided under the Lifeline program; and

(C) partner with nonprofit and community-based organizations that have a proven track record of working with covered individuals in implementing digital inclusion initiatives to provide covered individuals with—

(i) assistance applying for the Lifeline program; and

(ii) information about product and technology choices.

(2) **MULTIPLE STATE AGENCIES.**—A State that receives a grant under this section may provide grant funds to 1 or more agencies located within the State, as identified under subsection (c)(2)(B), to carry out the activities under the grant.

(f) **OUTREACH TO STATES REGARDING GRANT PROGRAM.**—Before accepting applications for the grant program established under this section, the Commission shall conduct outreach to States to ensure that States are aware of the grant program and how to apply for a grant under the grant program.

(g) **REGULATIONS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.

(h) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) or a regulation promulgated under that Act.

(2) **MANNER OF ENFORCEMENT.**—The Commission shall enforce this section and the regulations promulgated under this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(i) **EXEMPTIONS.**—

(1) **CERTAIN RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to a regulation promulgated under this section or a rulemaking proceeding to promulgate such a regulation.

(2) **PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT REQUIREMENTS.**—A collection of information conducted or sponsored under the regulations required under this section shall not constitute a collection of information for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”).

(j) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after establishing the grant program under this section, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of individuals notified of Lifeline program eligibility by States receiving grants under this section;

(B) the number of new applicants to the Lifeline program from States receiving grants under this section, including the

number of those applicants who enrolled in the Lifeline program; and

(C) the cost-effectiveness of the grant program established under this section.

(k) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for the first 5 full fiscal years beginning after the establishment of the grant program under this section.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO STATES TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY VERIFIER.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means a State that, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submits to the Commission an application for a grant under this section containing such information as the Commission may require.

(3) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish a program to provide a grant, from amounts appropriated under subsection (e), to each eligible entity for the purpose described in subsection (c).

(c) **PURPOSE.**—The Commission shall make a grant to each eligible entity for the purpose of establishing, renewing, reestablishing, or maintaining or amending a connection between the databases of the eligible entity that contain information concerning the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under a program administered by the eligible entity (including any benefit provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)) and the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier so that the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under the benefits program—

(1) is reflected in the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier; and

(2) can be used to verify eligibility for the Lifeline program set forth in subpart E, part 54, of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(d) **DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS.**—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Commission establishes the program under subsection (b), funds provided under each grant made under that subsection shall be disbursed to the eligible entity receiving the grant.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 698—RECOGNIZING APRIL 29, 2026, AS “DENIM DAY” AND HONORING SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Ms. BALDWIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 698

Whereas sexual assault affects individuals of every age, race, gender, socioeconomic

background, and community across the United States;

Whereas Denim Day began following a 1998 decision by the Italian Supreme Court that overturned a rape conviction based on the victim's clothing, prompting widespread outrage and a call to action;

Whereas, in response, members of the California Senate wore denim on the steps of the capital in solidarity with the survivor and to protest misconceptions surrounding sexual violence;

Whereas Executive Director/CEO of Peace Over Violence Patti Giggans founded Denim Day in 1999;

Whereas Peace Over Violence, a Los Angeles-based sexual and domestic violence, intimate partner stalking, child abuse, and youth violence prevention center has continuously advocated for survivors of such violence since its inception in 1971, providing emergency, intervention, prevention, education, and advocacy services in Los Angeles and the West San Gabriel Valley;

Whereas Denim Day has since grown into a national and international movement led by Peace Over Violence, encouraging communities to make a social statement with their fashion statement and wear denim as a visible means of protest against victim-blaming and harmful myths and lies about sexual assault, occurring annually the last Wednesday of April during Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

Whereas wearing denim on Denim Day is a symbol of solidarity with survivors of sexual assault and serves as a statement that clothing, behavior, or appearance never constitutes consent;

Whereas wearing denim on Denim Day spreads the signature Denim Day message that states there is no excuse and someone's clothing, behavior, or appearance is never an invitation to harass, abuse, assault, or rape;

Whereas Denim Day is a call to action for survivors to be heard, respected, and have access to trauma-informed services, healing, and justice;

Whereas, in the United States, over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetime;

Whereas more than 4 in 5 female rape survivors reported that they were first raped before age 25, and almost half were first raped as a minor;

Whereas recent estimates put the lifetime cost of rape at \$122,461 per survivor, including medical costs, lost productivity, criminal justice activities, and other costs;

Whereas, every 68 seconds somewhere in the United States, someone is sexually assaulted, and every 9 minutes that victim is a child;

Whereas nearly 1 in 10 women has been raped by an intimate partner;

Whereas 6 out of 10 rapes are committed by someone who knew the victim;

Whereas 82 percent of sexual assaults committed by a friend or acquaintance are not reported to the police;

Whereas only 25 out of every 1,000 perpetrators will end up in prison;

Whereas 1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted while in college;

Whereas 15,000 to 19,000 people with developmental disabilities are raped each year in the United States;

Whereas 1 out of 10 rape victims are men;

Whereas 44 percent of sexual assault and rape victims are under the age of 18;

Whereas victims of sexual assault are 3 times more likely to suffer from depression, 6 times more likely to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, 13 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 26 times more likely to abuse drugs, and 4 times more likely to contemplate suicide;

Whereas 47 percent of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their life;

Whereas sexual violence affects Black women at disproportionately high rates;

Whereas more than 20 percent of Black women are raped during their lifetimes, a higher share than among women overall, which is 18 percent;

Whereas 56.1 percent and over 1,500,000 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced sexual violence;

Whereas it is essential to raise awareness about sexual violence in all its forms, promote prevention efforts, support survivor-centered policies, and foster a culture of respect, dignity, and accountability; and

Whereas recognizing Denim Day provides an opportunity to reaffirm Congress's commitment to supporting survivors, holding offenders accountable, and advancing education and resources to prevent sexual violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes April 29, 2026, as "Denim Day" and supports the goals and ideals of Denim Day to raise awareness of sexual assault and combat victim-blaming;

(2) honors the strength, resilience, and courage of survivors of sexual assault and affirms the right of all individuals to live free from violence, harassment, and abuse;

(3) expresses solidarity with survivors and their families, and supports their access to comprehensive, trauma-informed, culturally competent services, including medical care, mental health support, legal assistance, and advocacy;

(4) reaffirms that clothing, appearance, or behavior never constitute consent and condemns all forms of victim-blaming;

(5) supports efforts to improve the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of sexual assault cases while ensuring survivor-centered and trauma-informed approaches throughout the justice process;

(6) recognizes the importance of addressing disparities in sexual violence affecting marginalized and vulnerable populations, including teenagers, children, women of color, Indigenous communities, individuals with disabilities, and LGBTQIA2+ individuals;

(7) calls on Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to strengthen policies, funding, and programs that prevent sexual violence and support survivors; and

(8) urges continued collaboration among policymakers, advocacy organizations, law enforcement, and communities to end sexual violence and ensure accountability for perpetrators.

SENATE RESOLUTION 699—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF APRIL AS "NATIONAL LANGUAGE ACCESS MONTH"

Mr. PADILLA submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 699

Whereas over 71,000,000 individuals ages 5 and older in the United States speak a language other than English at home;

Whereas over 25,700,000 individuals in the United States have limited English proficiency (LEP) and rely on translation and interpretation services to access vital public services and institutions;

Whereas studies show that 47 percent of all immigrant adults in the United States have LEP;

Whereas, according to a 2017–2021 Census Bureau estimate, there are at least 500 indi-

vidual languages and language groups spoken in the United States;

Whereas about 30 percent of Asian-American adults, 12 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults, 32 percent of Hispanic adults, 3 percent of Black adults, and 1 percent of White adults reported having LEP;

Whereas nearly 9 percent of the United States population are individuals with LEP, with some States and territories having even higher rates, including—

(1) 54 percent of residents in American Samoa;

(2) 20 percent of residents in California;

(3) 14 percent of residents in Texas;

(4) 12 percent of residents in New York;

(5) 12 percent of residents in Florida; and

(6) 9 percent of residents in Puerto Rico;

Whereas the term "language access" means the provision of culturally competent and effective language services to an individual with LEP designed to enhance that individual's access to, understanding of, or benefit from services, activities, and programs;

Whereas uneven coverage and implementation of language access contribute to significant disparities for individuals seeking—

(1) employment services;

(2) transportation services;

(3) financial services;

(4) health services;

(5) housing services;

(6) legal services; and

(7) other services;

Whereas 31 percent of immigrants with LEP report that language barriers interfere with their ability to access health care services;

Whereas 29 percent of immigrants with LEP report that language barriers affect their ability to find or maintain employment;

Whereas 25 percent of immigrants with LEP report difficulty applying for government financial assistance for food, housing, or health coverage;

Whereas 22 percent of immigrants with LEP report that language barriers have made it difficult to report a crime or seek assistance from law enforcement;

Whereas existing legislation protecting language access is integral to ensuring that all Americans can access federally funded programs and policies;

Whereas title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) prohibits recipients of Federal funding from discriminating based on national origin;

Whereas the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), originally the Food Stamp Act of 1964, requires that State agencies utilize bilingual personnel and appropriate printed materials when there are a large number of low-income households that speak a language other than English;

Whereas the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) requires the Federal Emergency Management Agency to account for the needs of people with LEP in disaster planning and prohibits discrimination on the basis of English proficiency when providing assistance;

Whereas section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18116) prohibits discrimination based on nationality and requires language assistance in the 15 most common languages for health-related programs;

Whereas section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503) requires certain counties and jurisdictions to provide bilingual voting assistance in communities with large numbers of language minorities and LEP citizens;