

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;

Whereas, for nearly 25 years, both Republican and Democratic Presidents have affirmed the importance of language access through the implementation of Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to English Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency”, which required Federal agencies and grantees to examine the services they provide and provide individuals with LEP “meaningful access” to agency services;

Whereas the California Department of Education recognizes April as National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month;

Whereas many States and local governments, including the States of New York and Hawaii, recognize April as Language Access Month; and

Whereas the purpose of Language Access Month is to increase awareness and celebrate the importance of language access to ensure equitable access to public services and programs for all Americans, including individuals with LEP: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition of “National Language Access Month”;

(2) affirms the importance of meaningful language access in ensuring equitable participation in Federal programs and services;

(3) encourages Federal agencies, States, local governments, and community organizations to promote awareness of language access rights and resources; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Language Access Month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 700—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 1, 2026, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2026, AS “FAIR CHANCE JOBS MONTH”**

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 700

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) nearly 80,000,000 people have a record of arrest or conviction;

(2) an estimated 19,000,000 people have felony convictions;

(3) nearly 13,000,000 people are charged each year with misdemeanor offenses;

(4) more than 600,000 people are released each year from Federal and State prisons;

(5) Black, Indigenous, and Latino people are 5, 4.2, and 2.4 times more likely than White people to be incarcerated, respectively, and also face higher rates of arrest; and

(6) LGBTQ+ individuals are 3 times more likely to be incarcerated and also face higher rates of arrest;

Whereas people who have been convicted of a crime and served their sentence continue to face consequences after release due to systemic biases and stigmas against formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas recidivism rates in the United States are among the highest in the world, with almost 44 percent of people who are released returning to incarceration within 1 year;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly ⅔ of the formerly incarcerated population is jobless at any given time;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly 14,000 laws and regulations and 48,000 collat-

eral consequences restrict formerly incarcerated individuals from getting professional licenses needed to work in some jobs;

Whereas 20 States and the District of Columbia allow occupational licensing boards to categorically reject applicants with prior convictions;

Whereas obstacles to employment, such as difficulty obtaining identification needed for employment, add undue burdens on returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas formerly incarcerated individuals earn nearly \$100 less per week than the average worker;

Whereas fair-chance employers can leverage financial incentives, such as the work opportunity tax credit, to benefit from hiring formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas employing returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals will result in a robust, vibrant, diverse, and resilient workforce;

Whereas having jobs that pay living wages, are conducive to health, provide opportunities for skillset development, provide opportunities for promotion, and provide benefits will facilitate stable employment and reduce recidivism;

Whereas returning citizens who have received vocational training while incarcerated are 28 percent more likely to obtain employment within 1 year of reentry into society than those lacking such training; and

Whereas, in addition to employment insecurity, returning citizens and formerly incarcerated people face numerous other obstacles to reentry and societal reintegration, including—

(1) housing insecurity and homelessness rates that are 10 times higher than the general public;

(2) near total restrictions in 12 States on access to temporary assistance for needy families established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); and

(3) greater prevalence of chronic health conditions, lower quality and coverage of health insurance, and mortality rates that are 13 times higher than the general public: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of April 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026, as “Fair Chance Jobs Month”; and

(2) supports efforts to—

(A) ensure that people directly impacted by incarceration obtain stable and high-quality employment, housing, healthcare, and nutrition;

(B) dismantle structural barriers to fair-chance hiring and employment, such as licensing restrictions, employer liability, and insurance restrictions;

(C) expand workforce development programs for returning citizens, formerly incarcerated individuals, and others directly impacted by incarceration, including—

(i) pre-apprenticeship programs;

(ii) registered apprenticeship programs;

(iii) career coaching, résumé-building, technology literacy, and other skillset development programs; and

(iv) programs that educate employers on best practices for, and the benefits of, fair-chance hiring;

(D) match jobs providers with returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals seeking jobs;

(E) support efforts from labor unions and worker organizations to engage returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals who are seeking jobs;

(F) publicize work opportunities that are open to applicants with prior arrest or conviction records; and

(G) foster greater collaboration and dialogue between Federal, State, and local government agencies, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, employers, labor unions, currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, and others directly impacted by incarceration to enhance fair-chance hiring and employment and help to heal communities impacted by mass incarceration.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 701—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 20 THROUGH 26, 2026, AS “NATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK”**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 701

Whereas the people of the United States are increasingly seeking opportunities for outdoor recreation, stargazing, and unique nighttime experiences;

Whereas national parks, rural communities, and protected landscapes with dark skies attract visitors interested in stargazing, recreation, and nature tourism;

Whereas the night sky has significantly impacted cultural traditions and human history;

Whereas the ability to observe the stars, planets, and other celestial bodies is an important part of the shared natural heritage of all people and should be preserved for future generations;

Whereas dark sky tourism provides economic opportunities for communities located near parks, observatories, and open landscapes;

Whereas preserving dark skies supports scientific discovery, astronomical research, and educational opportunities for students and communities;

Whereas astronomy education and public stargazing programs inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

Whereas artificial lighting can obscure visibility of the night sky and may limit opportunities for the people of the United States to observe stars, planets, and other celestial phenomena;

Whereas excessive artificial light can disrupt wildlife behavior and ecosystems;

Whereas many species rely on natural cycles of light and darkness to regulate biological process and ecosystem balance;

Whereas reducing brightness at night can save energy, reduce consumption, and lower costs;

Whereas artificial lighting has increased significantly in recent decades, contributing to light pollution across the United States; and

Whereas efforts to reduce light pollution can be achieved through simple measures such as shielding lights, directing lighting downward, and limiting unnecessary illumination: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of April 20 through 26, 2026, as “National Dark Sky Week”; and

(2) encourages Federal agencies to coordinate among themselves to expand safe and informative dark skies opportunities to support local communities and all people of the United States;

(3) encourages communities, educators, scientists, and local governments to raise awareness of the value of preserving dark skies; and