

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1202, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items.

S. 1296

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1296, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen disclosure requirements relating to foreign gifts and contracts, to prohibit contracts between institutions of higher education and certain foreign entities and countries of concern, and for other purposes.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1541, a bill to support the national defense and economic security of the United States by supporting vessels, ports, and shipyards of the United States and the U.S. maritime workforce.

S. 1630

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1630, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide more opportunities for mothers to succeed, and for other purposes.

S. 1712

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1712, a bill to authorize peace officer standards and training agencies to access criminal history records, and for other purposes.

S. 3041

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3041, a bill to allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist in certain Tribal criminal matters, and for other purposes.

S. 3332

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3332, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion of gain from the sale of a principal residence, and for other purposes.

S. 3518

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3518, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to address certain alterations in, and the maintenance and repair of, project works, to provide for the licensing of micro hydrokinetic energy projects, and for other purposes.

S. 3538

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3538, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate

origination fees on Federal Direct loans.

S. 3572

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3572, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to allow recipients of certain grants to improve highway safety efforts through the integration of predictive data analytics, telematics, and other advanced technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 3940

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3940, a bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to testify before Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 3992

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3992, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify authority for the Joint Medical Facility Fund of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 4212

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4212, a bill to require contractors of the Department of Defense to prioritize meeting warfighter needs over the purchase of their own securities and executive compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 4367

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4367, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the definition of food.

S. 4394

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4394, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the COPS program with respect to training command-level personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 4455

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4455, a bill to amend section 313 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to designate provisions resulting in the sale, disposal, or transfer of Federal lands as extraneous under the Byrd Rule.

S. 4464

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4464, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry

Products Inspection Act to ensure that consumers can make informed decisions in choosing between meat and poultry products and cell-cultivated protein products, and for other purposes.

S. 4542

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4542, a bill to disqualify aliens from establishing good moral character, maintaining eligibility for asylum, and retaining lawful permanent resident status if they engage in activities in opposition to the United States Constitution, our form of government, or support Sharia law.

S.J. RES. 191

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 191, a joint resolution to direct removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 710

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 710, a resolution recognizing Maternal Mental Health Day to raise awareness about maternal mental health.

S. RES. 727

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 727, a resolution supporting the designation of May 29, 2026, as "Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day" to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4608. A bill to prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for any violation of Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tomorrow, the State of Tennessee is planning to end the life of Tony Carruthers, a man with severe mental health conditions who was forced to represent himself in a murder trial 30 years ago.

Forensic evidence never connected him to the crime. Key witness testimony has been discredited. Fingerprints and DNA found at the crime scene were never fully investigated

even though they could exonerate Mr. Carruthers. Despite all of this, his execution is scheduled to continue tomorrow as planned. By 12 midnight tomorrow, Mr. Carruthers will depart this Earth for a crime he may not have committed.

When I was first elected to Congress many years ago, I was part of the majority of Americans who supported the death penalty for the most heinous crimes. Over the years, my views began to change for a number of reasons.

First, there have been numerous cases of potentially innocent people who have been executed, including as recently as 2024, and over 200 people who were wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death have been exonerated since 1973. One study found that more than 4 percent of the individuals on death row were likely innocent, and this figure does not include those who pled guilty to crimes they didn't commit to avoid execution.

For many on death row, their punishment stems from their inability to afford counsel and their struggles with mental illness. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, approximately 90 percent of people facing capital charges cannot afford an attorney. Researchers at the University of North Carolina have found that 43 percent of individuals executed between 2000 and 2015 had been diagnosed with a mental illness at some point in their lives—43 percent. The death penalty is not a punishment reserved for the worst of the worst; it is one reserved for the poorest of the poor.

In addition, it is a penalty disproportionately faced by Black Americans. Despite being 13 percent of the U.S. population, Black people make up 41 percent of all the prisoners on death row. A coincidence? Numerous studies have found that Black defendants are more likely than their White counterparts to face the death penalty.

On top of all this, it is far from clear that the death penalty even serves its primary purpose. There is yet to be conclusive evidence to demonstrate that the death penalty deters people from committing heinous crimes compared to the threat of spending life in prison.

Faced with all of this, 15 years ago, I announced that I could no longer support the death penalty. Luckily, I was in good company. I was not the first public official whose thinking about this issue changed. Supreme Court Justices Harry Blackmun and John Paul Stevens had a similar journey to my own. While both initially ruled in favor of the death penalty, they eventually came to the same conclusion: that after decades of trying to make it fair, we had largely failed as a nation.

In the year 2000, in my home State of Illinois, George Ryan, a Republican Governor, instituted the first statewide moratorium on executions in the Nation. In 2003, Governor Ryan cleared death row by commuting the sentences of 167 inmates to life in prison.

In 2021, in his first year in office, President Biden instituted a moratorium on the Federal death penalty. Then, in December 2024, in response to a request from me and 11 other Senators, President Biden commuted the sentences of most individuals on Federal death row to life in prison.

Today, I am reintroducing the Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act. This legislation would prohibit the imposition of the death penalty as punishment for any violation of Federal law and require the resentencing of those previously sentenced to death row.

This bill is particularly important today. Last month, President Trump's Department of Justice announced that it was bringing back firing squads and seeking to return to the use of electrocution and lethal gas for executions. Meanwhile, the State of Alabama became the first government in the world to carry out executions by nitrogen suffocation, an untested and inhumane death penalty method.

The Supreme Court has declined to intervene, over the dissent of Justice Sotomayor, joined by Justices Kagan and Jackson.

Listen to what Justice Sotomayor wrote:

Allowing the nitrogen hypoxia experiment to continue despite mounting and unbroken evidence that it violates the Constitution by inflicting unnecessary suffering fails to protect the dignity of the Nation we have been, the Nation we are, and the Nation we aspire to be.

These barbaric tactics will be remembered as a stain on our Nation's history. We must not engage in the very conduct we seek to punish. My bill would ensure we do not.

I understand this subject brings up people's strongest emotions. When faced with the horrific acts of some of the people on death row, the hatred they hold, and the pain they caused, it is understandable to want them to face a punishment commensurate with their crimes. But how many innocent people must be put to death to feed a feeling of vengeance? How many Americans must be denied justice in the name of grief?

State-sanctioned killing is not an effective way to make our country safe. It is not guaranteed to only punish the guilty. It is not who we are.

I hope my colleagues will join me and together end this cruel and unusual punishment in America once and for all.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4608

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Death Penalty Prohibition Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OF DEATH SENTENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person may be sentenced to death or put to death on or after the date of enactment of this Act for any violation of Federal law.

(b) PERSONS SENTENCED BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any person sentenced to death before the date of enactment of this Act for any violation of Federal law shall be resentenced.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4611. A bill to provide for alignment of the Job Corps with the defense industrial base, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we need to revitalize our Nation's defense and maritime industrial bases, and we need to develop the workforce to achieve this goal. Job Corps and registered apprenticeship programs have the track record and capacity to support this effort. Yet current law limits the ability of the Department of Defense and key entities in the defense and maritime industrial bases to invest in partnerships with these programs. To address this challenge, I am introducing the bipartisan Job Corps Shipbuilding-Defense Industrial Base Pipeline Act with Senator COLLINS. Our bill will formalize and strengthen the partnership between Job Corps, registered apprenticeship programs, and the defense industrial base. I am grateful to Representative JOE COURTNEY for leading the bipartisan effort in the House.

Over the next decade, the submarine industrial base will need an estimated 100,000 skilled workers to build the submarines critical to our national defense. In the next year, Electric Boat, a key contractor in this effort, plans to hire 5,000 workers in the skilled trades, including 3,000 in Rhode Island. Our Job Corps centers have been important partners in filling the workforce pipeline, but with additional resources and flexibilities, they could do even more.

The Job Corps Shipbuilding-Defense Industrial Base Pipeline Act would promote greater alignment between our armed services, defense industrial base, Job Corps, and registered apprenticeship programs to prepare young workers to contribute to our national defense. It would extend eligibility for the Navy Shipbuilding Workforce Development Special Incentive to Job Corps and registered apprenticeship programs, and it would enable Job Corps centers to receive grants from the Department of Defense and other sources to fund training curriculum. It would also provide Job Corps centers with the flexibility to make staffing and professional development decisions, enter into agreements with local partners, and engage stakeholders, while acting within existing budgets.

Additionally, the Job Corps Shipbuilding-Defense Industrial Base Pipeline Act would provide new avenues for participation in Job Corps and registered apprenticeship programs. Our

bill would require the Secretary of Defense to ensure military recruits who are ineligible for enlistment be made aware of opportunities to enroll in the Job Corps and registered apprenticeship programs to prepare them for enlistment or learn skills that are in high demand in the defense industrial Use. It would also streamline Job Corps' enrollment for interested servicemembers in prepreparation counseling.

The Job Corps Shipbuilding-Defense Industrial Base Pipeline Act is a win-win-win piece of legislation. Our national security will be strengthened by providing more skilled workers to address critical defense sector needs; young people will get life-changing career opportunities that will put them on a path to economic security and personal success; and the taxpayer will benefit from greater government efficiency in leveraging existing programs to address national priorities. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 741—DESIGNATING MAY 2026 AS “NATIONAL WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 741

Whereas wildfires across the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the United States territories have increased in scale, complexity, and severity, fire seasons have lengthened in many parts of the United States to encompass the entire year, and wildfire has become a threat in regions of the United States that have little or no history of wildfire;

Whereas, in the United States from 2016 to 2025, 634,052 wildfires burned, consuming a total of 70,543,367 acres;

Whereas, in the United States from January 1 to May 1, 2026, 1,848,210 acres have burned, which is 94 percent higher than the previous 10-year average, and 24,066 wildfires have been reported, which is 50 percent higher than the previous 10-year average;

Whereas, from May 2026 to August 2026, over 40 percent of States in the United States are expected to face above normal risk for significant wildfire events;

Whereas nearly 85 percent of wildland fires in the United States are caused by humans;

Whereas Federal wildfire suppression efforts cost more than \$3,000,000,000 per year, and the total cost of wildfire damage across the United States is estimated to be tens to hundreds of billions of dollars per year;

Whereas significant investments in proactive planning, mitigation, and risk reduction are necessary for the United States to counteract increasingly severe wildfire risk, damage, and loss;

Whereas firefighters are on the front lines and are at an increased risk of developing cancer and respiratory diseases because they are exposed to smoke and hazardous chemicals in the line of duty;

Whereas the effects of long-term exposure to wildfire smoke will harm more people, as particulate pollution can cause asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, and even death;

Whereas preventative measures exist to help individuals and communities increase their fire resilience through—

(1) reducing the risk of home ignition by using fire-resistant construction materials and maintaining yard vegetation;

(2) community planning that reduces home wildfire exposure and increases access for firefighters;

(3) evacuation planning and assistance for people and their animals;

(4) vegetation and forest management; and

(5) limited use of combustibles during high heat or drier seasons, including fireworks, exhaust, and open flames; and

Whereas a nationally designated Wildfire Preparedness Month—

(1) increases awareness of the threat of wildfires and the knowledge of lifesaving and fire-mitigation practices; and

(2) promotes educational initiatives, encourages community programming, and increases overall knowledge and preparedness; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2026 as “National Wildfire Preparedness Month”;

(2) encourages increased awareness of, and preparedness for, the threat of wildfires and subsequent suppression efforts at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal levels of government, including Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities, and by non-governmental organizations and communities; and

(3) supports resources and educational initiatives that communicate how communities at risk of exposure to wildfire hazards can take preventative measures, including home hardening, land management practices that reduce or remove highly flammable grasses and shrubs, instituting or enhancing early warning systems, reducing unplanned human ignitions, reducing adverse health impacts from smoke and fire exposure, and safely and efficiently evacuating people and their animals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 742—COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE INSTITUTE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS FORESTRY

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 742

Whereas the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (referred to in this preamble as the “IPIF”) operates under a geographically based research portfolio and the Pacific Southwest Research Station Charter;

Whereas the IPIF has been serving the Pacific region, which is equal to the size of the continental United States, since 1956, following the orders of the Secretary of Agriculture;

Whereas the IPIF was congressionally authorized and established as an Institute in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (commonly known as the “1990 Farm Bill”) (Public Law 101-624; 104 Stat. 3359);

Whereas the mission of the IPIF has been to serve the research, development, demonstration, and technical assistance needs of Hawaii and United States-affiliated Pacific islands in addressing the frontiers of tropical ecology, natural resources, and management;

Whereas the IPIF provides the scientific information needed to advise officials re-

garding the restoration, conservation, and sustainability of tropical forests, grasslands, and wetlands of the Pacific;

Whereas wildfire threats escalate in island environments, and the IPIF’s ongoing wildfire mapping, risk analysis, and science-driven fire-mitigation strategies, developed in collaboration with the Forest Service’s Fire and Aviation Management, has transformed fire response capacity across the Pacific while reducing long-term risk and costs;

Whereas the IPIF conducts cutting edge tropical research in investigating invasive species and their impacts, developing conservation tools, including biocontrol agents, to support endemic wildlife and plants, and managing environmental stressors in the Pacific’s ecosystems;

Whereas recent IPIF studies include findings on the pathogenicity and colonization of Rapid Ohia Death on Ohia trees and the changing population patterns of invasive strawberry guava trees in the Hawaiian rainforest;

Whereas the IPIF’s Biocontrol Program has been a national leader in researching and administering safe, targeted, long-term weed and insect pest suppression to reduce the costs of large-scale land restoration;

Whereas the IPIF serves as a bridge between science and community, presenting indigenous perspectives through conservation partnerships and cultural stewardship to reach its conservation goals, increases the number of rural jobs, and empowers local decision making;

Whereas the IPIF’s location on Hawaii Island makes it the premier Forest Service institute and hub for scientific research in the Pacific region and is vital to ensuring that the institute is able to carry out the research goals set forth by Congress in a fiscally responsible manner;

Whereas the IPIF is home to a dedicated workforce committed to their mission of serving the people and ecosystems of the Pacific;

Whereas the IPIF has been home to various research programs related to a diverse range of categories with national universities and government organizations;

Whereas healthy forests and watersheds are vital in providing important ecosystem services, including nutrient cycling, carbon storage, erosion prevention, increased biodiversity, wildlife movement corridors, water storage, flood control, and more; and

Whereas scientific research on our forests and watersheds is important for maintaining the landscape and biodiversity of the United States, and fighting against climate change; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 70th anniversary of the United States Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (referred to in this resolution as the “IPIF”);

(2) recognizes the vital contributions that the research conducted and data produced by the IPIF have provided to the United States in understanding the ecosystems of the Pacific region;

(3) acknowledges the importance of having the IPIF located on Hawaii Island; and

(4) reaffirms the Senate’s strong support for the critical ongoing operations of the IPIF and its staff.

SENATE RESOLUTION 743—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 3 THROUGH MAY 9, 2026, AS “CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. HUSTED (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following