

S.J. RES. 196

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 196, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Reimagining and Improving Student Education-Federal Student Loan Program Final Regulations”.

S.J. RES. 197

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 197, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2027; and Basic Health Program”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5844

At the request of Mr. KIM, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5844 intended to be proposed to S. 4784, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5846

At the request of Mr. KIM, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5846 intended to be proposed to S. 4784, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 782—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF POLLINATORS TO ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES BY DESIGNATING JUNE 22 THROUGH JUNE 28, 2026, AS “NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK”

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 782

Whereas pollinators like native bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles play a vital role in agriculture throughout the United States and help produce a

healthy and affordable food supply while also maintaining the health and diversity of ecosystems;

Whereas various native pollinator species help reproduce at least 80 percent of flowering plants, making pollinators indispensable for sustaining the biodiversity of natural ecosystems;

Whereas enhancing native pollinator and honey bee populations can result in improved and essential pollination services for neighboring land, including agriculture and wildlife ecosystems;

Whereas it is in the strong economic interest of agricultural producers and consumers in the United States to help ensure healthy, sustainable pollinator populations, as pollinators add more than \$18,000,000,000 in revenue to crop production in the United States each year, including more than 100 crops that either need or benefit from native pollinators;

Whereas pollinators also contribute to clean air and water, stable soil, and a diversity of wildlife needed for healthy and productive natural ecosystems;

Whereas a number of North American bumble bees are threatened or endangered, while iconic species like the Western monarch butterfly have declined by 99 percent due to dwindling habitat, disease, and other threats;

Whereas the Western monarch butterfly population has significantly declined from nearly 10,000,000 butterflies in the 1980s to fewer than 2,000 butterflies in 2020, and the population of this iconic species remains perilously small and vulnerable to yearly fluctuations, prompting the monarch butterfly to be proposed as threatened;

Whereas more than 70 native pollinator species are listed by the Federal Government as threatened or endangered, with the rusty patched bumble bee, the Powesheik skipperling, and the Dakota skipper listed within the past decade; and

Whereas declines in the health and population of native pollinators potentially pose a substantial threat to global food webs, ecological diversity, and human health: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of June 22 through June 28, 2026, as “National Pollinator Week”;

(2) acknowledges the significance that all types of pollinators play in sustaining agriculture, promoting biodiversity, and maintaining the overall health of natural ecosystems;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Pollinator Week with appropriate ceremonies and conservation and educational activities; and

(4) intends to—

(A) continue working to conserve native pollinator species and their various habitats; and

(B) work to improve the overall understanding of the importance of native pollinators.

SENATE RESOLUTION 783—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 11, 2026, AS “ANTI-ILLCIT TRADE AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 783

Whereas, on June 11, 1782, Alexander Hamilton set a manifest requirement for ships to list exports to address illegal smuggling and

trade fraud as part of his broader efforts to protect the economy of the United States against illicit trade;

Whereas illicit trade—

(1) consists not only of the movement of inherently illegal products, such as the trafficking of drugs, deadly fentanyl, fake medicines, firearms, illicit cigarettes, humans, illegal gold, endangered wildlife parts, cultural artifacts, counterfeit goods, and other contraband, but also the movement of products that are not inherently illicit but violate regulatory frameworks, such as diversion to unintended markets and commission of customs fraud, including tariff evasion, smuggling, misclassification, undervaluation, transshipment to disguise the true country of origin, and contravention of labeling, safety, and handling requirements;

(2) is not currently recognized in all of its various forms, nor in its pervasiveness and severity;

(3) is a multi-trillion-dollar global illegal economy that has numerous threat-multiplying effects, supports and expands criminalized markets, and corrodes the rule of law, good governance, and the integrity of global supply chains;

(4) poses a significant national security threat as one of the most prominent and pernicious forms of transnational crimes facing the United States and allies of the United States given its detrimental impact on the competitiveness of the United States, legitimate markets, public trust, and the health and safety of citizens and its financing of criminal enterprises;

(5) fuels corruption and money laundering (including trade-based money laundering) that finance greater crime convergence, insecurity, instability, and violence in all corners of the globe;

(6) contributes to human trafficking, forced labor, modern slavery, child sextortion, and exploitation through physical intimidation, coercion, deception, or fraud;

(7) is significantly facilitated by the proliferation of unregulated free trade zones that act as hubs of illicit trade and put the economic and physical security of the communities within which they operate at great risk;

(8) is leveraged by malignant state actors who thwart the national interests of the United States and allies of the United States by infusing markets with dangerous illicit products such as fentanyl and use proceeds from such illicit trade to destabilize the developed world, fund violent conflicts, and enable insecure commerce streams to thrive; and

(9) is becoming more pervasive as global connectivity and supply chains expand and Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure projects increase in number and scale;

Whereas recognizing illicit trade nationally is consistent with the “America First Trade Policy” of the administration of President Donald J. Trump and will highlight and support the work of the cross-agency Trade Fraud Task Force and Homeland Security Task Forces of the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security;

Whereas trade fraud deprives the Federal Government of billions of dollars annually, and a single transshipment investigation in 2025 uncovered more than \$400,000,000 in duty evasion;

Whereas the International Coalition Against Illicit Economies has estimated that the global illegal economy may be 1 of the top 5 economies in the world, behind the gross domestic product economies of the United States, at \$31,800,000,000,000, and China, at \$18,700,000,000,000, with a projected economic value of between \$3,000,000,000,000 and \$5,000,000,000,000;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations have also estimated that money laundered annually from illicit economic trade is between 2 and 5 percent of global gross domestic product, or up to \$6,000,000,000,000, as of 2025;

Whereas numerous international organizations recognize that the global illicit drug trade generates hundreds of billions of dollars per year;

Whereas the 2024 Global Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime noted a 25 percent increase in the number of trafficked victims in 2023 from 2022 data, and the Department of State estimates that at least 27,000,000 people were exploited for labor, services, and sexual slavery in 2024;

Whereas the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has highlighted the global trade in counterfeit and pirated products at approximately \$467,000,000,000, or 2.3 percent of total global imports;

Whereas INTERPOL and the United Nations Environment Programme have estimated the cost from an array of environmental crimes at more than \$250,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimated the size of the global illicit cigarette market to be 11.6 percent of the global cigarette market in 2024 (or 657,000,000,000 cigarettes per year and approximately \$40,500,000,000 in lost revenue globally);

Whereas the Hubs of Illicit Trade Project at George Mason University has noted how criminals, counterfeiters, bad actors, illicit threat networks, and money launderers are reaping hundreds of billions of dollars in profit every year from criminality across critical hubs of illicit trade, global supply chains, and the digital world; and

Whereas public-private partnerships, public education, and general awareness of illicit trade are critically needed—

(1) to recognize the many forms of illicit trade;

(2) to understand the global scale and detrimental impacts of illicit trade on the United States and the international community;

(3) to encourage the public to report incidences of illicit trade; and

(4) to arm the Federal Government with the tools, legal authorities, and financial resources necessary to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle transnational illicit networks and their complicit enablers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of June 11, 2026, as “Anti-Illicit Trade Awareness Day” to combat illicit trade in all criminal manifestations every day thereafter in the calendar year;

(2) supports the elevation of illicit trade and related illicit finance to national security priorities and the full integration of countering such illicit trade into the national security strategies of the United States to enhance this multi-dimensional criminal threat through coordinated executive agency actions;

(3) supports financial intelligence sharing on trade-based money laundering, integrated intelligence fusion centers to more comprehensively combat illicit trade, and a sustained global network of trade transparency units to combat cross-border flows of illicit goods and illicit financial flows; and

(4) continues to advance coordinated whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to combating illicit trade.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5887. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5888. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5889. Mr. KIM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5890. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. PADILLA)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5891. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5892. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5893. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5894. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. ROSEN)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5895. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5896. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5897. Mr. HOEVEN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 675, to contribute funds and artifacts to the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library in Medora, North Dakota.

SA 5898. Ms. DUCKWORTH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5899. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5900. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5901. Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5902. Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5887. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1230. UNITED STATES SENATE NATO OBSERVER GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Senate a group of Senators to address and advise on matters relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to be known as the “Senate NATO Observer Group”.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Senate NATO Observer Group shall—

(1) serve as a forum for addressing matters relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization that fall within the jurisdictions of 2 or more committees of the Senate;

(2) advise the Senate on issues relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, including North Atlantic Treaty Organization enlargement; and

(3) with respect to any matter involving the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United States Government, particularly during negotiations on North Atlantic Treaty Organization enlargement, engage in close interactions between and among the executive branch, the Senate, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, any other member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and any country that is a candidate for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(c) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in the 120th Congress, not later than 60 days after the date on which of the first session of each Congress convenes, the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint to the Senate NATO Observer Group not more than 7 Senators.

(2) CO-CHAIRS.—Of the members appointed under paragraph (1), the majority leader and the minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint 1 co-chairperson of the Senate NATO Observer Group.

(3) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Senate NATO Observer Group shall include, as ex officio members, the chair and ranking member of each of the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(d) USE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the co-chairs of the Senate NATO Observer Group are authorized to use funds in accordance with the provisions of law relating to foreign currencies, as codified in section 1754 of title 22, United States Code, for activities critical to carrying out the functions of the Senate NATO Observer Group.

(e) REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually, the Senate NATO Observer Group shall submit to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate and the chairperson and ranking member of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the activities undertaken by the Senate NATO Observer Group during the preceding fiscal year, including with respect to travel, legislative efforts, and public diplomacy initiatives.

SA 5888. Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an