

to in this preamble as the “Church”) sought nothing more than the freedom to worship according to the dictates of their own conscience;

Whereas, in the years following the establishment of the Church, the early members of the Church endured repeated persecution, including mob violence, the destruction of their homes and crops, the loss of their property, and forced displacement from one settlement after another;

Whereas, on June 27, 1844, Joseph Smith, the leader and prophet of the Church, was murdered by an armed mob, leaving the Church and its members facing an uncertain future;

Whereas Brigham Young, who succeeded Joseph Smith as leader of the Church, concluded that safety and religious liberty could only be found far beyond the settled United States and organized the Church’s members for a journey into the wilderness of the American West;

Whereas, beginning in February 1846, thousands of Latter-day Saint pioneers set out across the frozen Iowa plains and ultimately traveled more than 1,300 miles by wagon and, for many, by foot, crossing prairies, deserts, mountains, and rivers to reach their new home;

Whereas the Latter-day Saint pioneers endured extreme cold, disease, hunger, and exhaustion during the journey, and many families buried children, parents, and spouses along the trail, their graves marking a path of sacrifice across the American West;

Whereas, upon entering the Great Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847, Brigham Young declared, “This is the right place,” foretelling how the valley would become home to many Latter-day Saint pioneers and their posterity;

Whereas, within days of their arrival, the Latter-day Saint pioneers laid out a city, plowed fields, irrigated the desert, and began to build homes, mills, and churches where none had stood before;

Whereas, over the following decades, tens of thousands more Latter-day Saint pioneers followed the same trail, and, together with earlier arrivals, established more than 500 communities throughout the American West, transforming the region into a place of prosperity;

Whereas the industry of the Latter-day Saint pioneers extended far beyond their own settlements, as they built roads and bridges, operated ferries across major rivers, planted way-station crops, and assisted thousands of other westward-bound emigrants who relied on the resources and goodwill the Latter-day Saint pioneers had established;

Whereas, on July 24, 1849, the Latter-day Saint pioneers held their first formal commemoration of the anniversary of their arrival, gathering for a procession and a public celebration of thanksgiving in Salt Lake City;

Whereas that observance has continued for 177 years and is now celebrated annually as “Pioneer Day,” a Utah State holiday marked by parades, rodeos, reenactments, fireworks, and civic gatherings that welcome participants of every faith and background;

Whereas the story of the Latter-day Saint pioneers is, at its core, a distinctly American story of a people who, having been denied protection and refuge, built both for themselves and for the generations who followed;

Whereas the pioneer spirit of self-reliance, enterprise, and perseverance that carried the Latter-day Saint pioneers across the plains continues today in the character of the American West, which remains a place where individuals and communities join together to solve hard problems and build for the future; and

Whereas the legacy of the Latter-day Saint pioneers stands as a lasting reminder that the American story is written not only by the founding generation, but by every generation that chooses to press forward with unconquerable faith and undaunted hope: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 179th anniversary of the arrival of Latter-day Saint pioneers to the Great Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847, and the annual observance of “Pioneer Day” that commemorates it;

(2) honors the extraordinary sacrifice of the Latter-day Saint pioneers, including those who gave their lives along the trail, in pursuit of religious liberty and a place to call home;

(3) commends the Latter-day Saint pioneers and their descendants for their foundational role in settling and developing the American West, and for a legacy of industry, cooperation, and faith that continues to benefit the United States; and

(4) encourages all the people of the United States to reflect on the enduring virtues of the Latter-day Saint pioneers and to carry forward, in their own generation, that same spirit of resilience in the continuation of the American story.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. President, tomorrow, Utahns will celebrate Pioneer Day, which commemorates the arrival of the first company of Latter-day Saint pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847.

For many outside Utah, Pioneer Day may seem a little unique and a strange local observance, but the values it commemorates are profoundly American and can resonate with all of us. We recognize not only a historic journey but the enduring pioneer spirit that helped shape the American West and continues to shape our country today.

The early members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sought to actualize our first freedom and something every American should cherish: religious liberty. Instead, they were driven from their homes, stripped of their property, and forced to flee into an uncertain wilderness. Thousands traveled more than 1,300 miles across plains, deserts, and mountains.

I recently walked 250 miles in remembrance of that journey, and it is true that it challenged me, but I had every modern advantage, including seven pairs of shoes, a support team, and an RV to sleep in. Their sacrifice was of an entirely different magnitude: parents buried children, children buried parents, spouses buried their soulmates. Yet they sang a song that will be sung in many church buildings across Utah on Sunday: “Come, Come, Ye Saints.” In that song, they sing “All is well,” for they had a vision of a land, as the song goes, “far away in the West, where none shall come to hurt or make afraid; there the Saints will be blessed.”

When they finally reached that place, the Salt Lake Valley, they didn’t dwell on all they had lost; they focused on what they could build. Within days, they were planting crops, digging irrigation canals, laying out streets, and creating communities where none had

existed before. Over the decades that followed, they established hundreds of settlements across the Mountain West, built roads and bridges, and helped countless other immigrants travel west.

That is the pioneer spirit. That is the American spirit. It is resilience in the face of hardship. It is self-reliance married with cooperation. It is choosing to build instead of surrender.

As our Nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, I believe those values are as relevant today as they were nearly 180 years ago. Every generation faces its own frontier. Ours may not be crossing the plains, but we are still called to solve difficult problems, to contribute meaningfully to our communities, and to leave a better nation for those who inherit it.

Americans still want to build something meaningful. They still want to provide for their families. They still want their children to inherit greater opportunities than they themselves received. Those aspirations haven’t changed. What has changed is that sometimes we forget the virtues and the sacrifices that are required to achieve them.

May we all this Pioneer Day recommit ourselves to remembering that heritage and channeling that spirit in our own hearts because the American story has never belonged to just one generation. It is written by each generation willing to work, sacrifice, and build for the next.

That is why the resolution I am introducing with my colleagues today is about more than honoring the past. It is about carrying forward the virtues that made those pioneers successful: faith, sacrifice, community, industry, and perseverance. May we honor their legacy by living those same values and by continuing to move our Nation forward one faithful step at a time.

SENATE RESOLUTION 813—DESIGNATING JULY 25, 2026, AS “NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY”

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 813

Whereas pioneering men and women, recognized as “cowboys”, helped to establish the American West;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy spirit exemplifies strength of character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy, who lives off the land and works to protect and enhance the environment, is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been a part of the culture of the United States for generations;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of many thousands of ranchers across the United States who contribute to the economic well-being of every State;

Whereas millions of fans watch professional and working ranch rodeo events annually, making rodeo one of the most-watched sports in the United States;

Whereas membership and participation in rodeo and other organizations that promote and encompass the livelihood of cowboys span every generation and transcend race and gender;

Whereas the cowboy is a central figure in literature, film, and music and occupies a central place in the public imagination;

Whereas the cowboy is an icon of the United States; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys and cowgirls to their communities should be recognized and encouraged: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 25, 2026, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 814—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING AND ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 AND CALLING TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO LIVE IN THEIR OWN HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

Mr. KIM (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BLUNT, Ms. ROCHESTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 814

Whereas, in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “Americans with Disabilities Act”), Congress recognized that “historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem”;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act recognizes the rights of individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities through independent living, equal-

ity of opportunity, and economic self-sufficiency;

Whereas, on June 22, 1999, the Supreme Court of the United States in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) (referred to in this preamble as “the *Olmstead decision*”) held that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act, States must offer qualified individuals with disabilities the choice to receive their long-term services and support in a community-based setting;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States further recognized that “confinement in an institution severely diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including activities involving family relations and social contacts, work options, economic independence, educational advancement, and cultural enrichment”;

Whereas, as a result of the integration mandate, many individuals with disabilities have been able to live in their own homes, and become productive members of the community, particularly through access to home and community-based services through the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as “the Medicaid program”);

Whereas 36 years after the date of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and 27 years after the *Olmstead decision*, the Department of Justice issued a deeply flawed and harmful opinion that rejects the integration mandate and threatens the hard-won progress toward full integration of individuals with disabilities into society;

Whereas, prior to the Department of Justice opinion described in the preceding whereas clause, the *Olmstead decision* and the integration mandate of the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) have been repeatedly affirmed by courts across the United States, by Congress, and in Federal regulations, prohibiting States from forcing individuals with disabilities into segregated settings, such as psychiatric hospitals, nursing homes, segregated schools, and sheltered workshops, when those individuals could be served in their homes and communities;

Whereas the Department of Justice admits its interpretation of the *Olmstead decision* is “out of step with common understanding of that decision within Federal courts”, yet encourages non-compliance with the integration mandate;

Whereas 36 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act—

(1) more than 8,400,000 individuals receive home and community-based services through the Medicaid program;

(2) individuals with disabilities are participating in the labor force at a rate of over 41 percent;

(3) on average, it is 3 times less expensive to serve someone through home and community-based services relative to an institution; and

(4) individuals returning to the community from institutions report improved life satisfaction, reduced unmet needs, and enhanced feelings of dignity;

Whereas the continuation of segregated institutional settings has hindered the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in communities, schools, and workplaces, undermining the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities experience disproportionately greater barriers to high-quality and accessible health care, education, housing, and competitive integrated employment opportunities, infringing on the right of individuals to

fully participate in their communities under the Americans with Disabilities Act;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act represents the floor, not the ceiling, of efforts needed to dismantle barriers to full participation, equal opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas fulfilling the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires individuals, families, communities, and government to work together to guarantee that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to thrive in their communities throughout their lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of independent living, equal opportunity, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) (referred to in this resolution as the “Americans with Disabilities Act”);

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate the advancement of inclusion and equality of opportunity made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act;

(3) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to identify and address the remaining barriers that undermine the national goals of equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation for individuals with disabilities, including by focusing on individuals with disabilities who remain segregated in institutions;

(4) pledges to work with States to improve funding for and access to home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities, with a focus on reducing and eliminating institutionalization;

(5) admonishes against recent cuts, and any future cuts, to the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) (referred to in this resolution as “the Medicaid program”), including the establishment of burdensome work-reporting requirements and other barriers, which puts the health of individuals with disabilities at risk and hinders the progress made since the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act;

(6) calls on Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to reverse the biggest cut to the Medicaid program in history and increase funding for home- and community-based services;

(7) calls on the Department of Justice to immediately rescind its incorrect and arbitrary interpretation of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) that was issued on June 18, 2026, relating to the integration mandate of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794);

(8) calls on Federal agencies to develop policies that advance the goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including by—

(A) condemning any executive or legislative action that would dismantle or relocate major offices within the Department of Education, including the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services and Office for Civil Rights; and

(B) calling on the Department of Labor to develop policies and practices, and to provide technical assistance, to increase the number and quality of competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities that enable such individuals to become economically self-sufficient;

(9) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to fully staff and support the Administration for Community Living