

This is the bill's second key objective. To accomplish this, my bill directs CMS to reset the home health base payment amount using 2020 rates, adjusted for inflation, before applying future payment updates. Resetting to 2020 is appropriate because it reflects the first year of the current payment methodology under the Patient-Driven Groupings Model and predates the fraud patterns that later emerged. The bill also addresses a calculation distortion in the current payment methodology and directs CMS to implement appropriate corrections going forward.

This legislation strikes the right balance. It strengthens CMS's ability to prevent fraud before taxpayer dollars are lost, while ensuring that honest providers have the resources necessary to continue delivering high-quality care. It advances both program integrity and payment integrity, protects Medicare beneficiaries, safeguards taxpayer dollars, and helps preserve access to the home health services that allow millions of Americans to receive care safely and independently in their own homes.

I want to note that these program integrity provisions align with those outlined in the Protecting Seniors and Stopping Fraudsters Act, introduced by Rep. VAN DUYNE in May. I look forward to working with her to move our bills forward as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 5264. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to set requirements for certain operator workstations for fixed route buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Bus Operator Safety and Security Act with my colleague from Missouri, Mr. HAWLEY. Our bipartisan bill will address a growing safety concern facing the transit industry: protecting the bus operators who serve as the backbone of our Nation's public transportation system.

Bus operators are being subjected to physical assaults, chemical attacks, and exposure to biohazards for simply carrying out their essential work. In my home State, a Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, RIPTA, busdriver was sprayed in the face with insecticide after asking a passenger to pay their fare. In Missouri, a Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, KCATA, busdriver was attacked with a baseball bat. In Ohio, a Central Ohio Transit Authority, COTA, busdriver was punched in the face after a passenger reached around a partial operator barrier, and in Pennsylvania, a Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, SEPTA, busdriver sustained slash wounds to his face and abdomen when attacked by a passenger. The list goes on.

These attacks are part of a growing nationwide trend. Indeed, assaults on transit workers have increased by more than 36 percent since 2023, with an average of 43 assaults each day in 2025. These alarming statistics underscore the urgent need to better protect the dedicated operators who keep our public transportation systems running safely every day.

To address this growing crisis, the Bus Operator Safety and Security Act would require all new, federally funded buses to be equipped with protective barriers around the operator's seat, providing bus operators with a safer and more secure workspace. These barriers are not cosmetic; they are life-saving. They fully enclose the operator's workstation, preventing unauthorized entry and protecting operators from physical assaults, thrown objects, chemical agents, and other dangerous hazards, while maintaining a clear line of sight so operators can safely perform their jobs.

This is a simple, commonsense solution. These barriers cost between \$3,000 to \$7,000 per bus, yet they can mean the difference between a bus operator making it home safely at the end of the day or becoming the victim of a violent assault.

I am pleased that the bill is supported by the Amalgamated Transit Union, ATU, the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, TTD, the SMART Transportation Division, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFSCME, and the Transport Workers Union of America, TWU. And in Rhode Island, the bill is supported by RIPTA and ATU Local 618. I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator HAWLEY in supporting this commonsense legislation and in working to include it in the next Surface Transportation reauthorization.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 831—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, STUDENT SUCCESS, AND SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 831

Whereas Tate County Agricultural High School was established in 1915 to provide educational opportunities for the people of North Mississippi and laid the foundation for what would become Northwest Mississippi Community College;

Whereas, for more than a century, the institution has served the educational, work-

force, and community needs of North Mississippi;

Whereas, on September 7, 1926, the institution opened its academic year with college-level instruction, marking the beginning of its continuous service as an institution of higher education;

Whereas, during the formative years of the institution, it earned approval from the Mississippi Junior College Committee, expanded its academic offerings, strengthened its faculty, and developed the academic standards necessary to serve as a model for community college education in Mississippi;

Whereas, in 1928, the institution adopted the name Northwest Mississippi Junior College and expanded its academic offerings to include a second year of collegiate instruction;

Whereas, effective January 2, 1988, the institution officially changed its name from Northwest Mississippi Junior College to Northwest Mississippi Community College, reflecting the expanding mission of the institution to serve the educational, workforce, and community needs of North Mississippi;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College serves an 11-county district consisting of Tate, DeSoto, Panola, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Quitman, Marshall, Calhoun, Lafayette, Yalobusha, and Benton counties through a main campus in Senatobia and campuses and instructional sites in DeSoto, Oxford, Batesville, Olive Branch, Water Valley, and Ashland;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has expanded educational opportunity throughout North Mississippi through the establishment and growth of instructional locations across its service area, bringing higher education, workforce training, and local community enrichment closer to the communities it serves, including in—

- (1) Senatobia, established in 1926;
- (2) DeSoto, established in 1975;
- (3) Ashland, established in 1980;
- (4) Oxford, established in 1983;
- (5) Olive Branch, established in 1985;
- (6) Batesville, established in 2021; and
- (7) Water Valley, established in 2022;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, Northwest Mississippi Community College serves more than 8,000 students annually and has experienced 13 consecutive semesters of enrollment growth, reflecting the enduring value of the institution and its continued ability to meet the educational and workforce needs of North Mississippi;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has become one of the largest and most respected community colleges in Mississippi, serving thousands of students annually through academic transfer programs, career and technical education, workforce training, health sciences programs, dual enrollment opportunities, and local community enrichment initiatives;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has earned national recognition for student success, enrollment growth, workforce development, academic achievement, and institutional excellence, including selection among the premier community colleges in the United States, while expanding educational opportunities through new facilities, innovative programs, and strategic partnerships;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has expanded educational access and workforce development opportunities through strategic investments in facilities and infrastructure, including the Ranger Center in DeSoto County, the Concourse in Batesville, the Heindl Center for the Performing Arts in Senatobia, and continued improvements to academic, workforce, student, and athletic facilities throughout the district;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College continues to expand high-demand programs in health sciences, workforce education, career and technical education, and university transfer programs to meet the evolving needs of students, employers, and communities throughout Mississippi;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has contributed significantly to the economic growth and prosperity of Mississippi by preparing a highly skilled workforce and fostering partnerships with business, industry, health care providers, governmental agencies, and community organizations;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has earned national recognition for excellence in intercollegiate athletics and student achievement throughout its history;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has consistently competed at the highest levels of intercollegiate athletics in the National Junior College Athletic Association, claiming National Championships in football, women's basketball, women's soccer, cheerleading, and dance;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College student-athletes have consistently exemplified excellence in competition, leadership, service, and academic achievement, earning national recognition for both athletic success and outstanding team grade point averages, reflecting the enduring commitment of the institution to excellence in academics and athletics;

Whereas Northwest Mississippi Community College has produced generations of All-Americans, national champions, conference champions, regional champions, academic honorees, and community leaders, whose accomplishments have brought distinction to the institution and to the State of Mississippi;

Whereas the faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, alumni, students, and supporters of Northwest Mississippi Community College have built a legacy of service, opportunity, innovation, and achievement that has positively affected hundreds of thousands of lives during the first century of college instruction of the institution; and

Whereas, as Northwest Mississippi Community College begins its second century of service as an institution of higher education, the institution remains committed to expanding opportunity, promoting student success, supporting workforce development, strengthening communities, and preparing future generations of students, workers, and community leaders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and congratulates Northwest Mississippi Community College on the occasion of its 100th anniversary;

(2) commends Northwest Mississippi Community College for 100 years of educational excellence, workforce development, student success, community service, and economic impact; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Northwest Mississippi Community College, Dr. Michael J. Heindl;

(B) the Vice President for Institutional Affairs, Dr. Brad Smith; and

(C) the Director of Athletics, Mr. Jake Gordon.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6736. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6732 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 6500, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under

the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

SA 6737. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6736 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the amendment SA 6732 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 6500, *supra*.

SA 6738. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6500, *supra*.

SA 6739. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6738 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 6500, *supra*.

SA 6740. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6500, *supra*.

SA 6741. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6740 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 6500, *supra*.

SA 6742. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6741 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the amendment SA 6740 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 6500, *supra*.

SA 6743. Mr. KELLY 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 6744. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4668, to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6745. Mr. THUNE (for Ms. HASSAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 850, to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and the northern border strategy, and for other purposes.

SA 6746. Mr. KELLY (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6736. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6732 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 6500, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

SA 6737. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6736 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the amendment SA 6732 proposed by Ms. COLLINS to the bill H.R. 6500, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 6738. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6500, to ex-

tend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 6739. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6738 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 6500, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 6740. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6500, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 6741. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6740 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 6500, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “5 days” and insert “6 days”.

SA 6742. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to amendment SA 6741 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the amendment SA 6740 proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill H.R. 6500, to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “6 days” and insert “7 days”.

SA 6743. Mr. KELLY 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 appropriate place in title XI, insert the following:

SEC. 11. LIMITATION ON EXECUTIVE ORDER 14251 RELATING TO EXCLUSIONS FROM FEDERAL LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2027 may be used to implement Executive Order 14251, issued on March 27, 2025, relating to exclusions from Federal labor-management relations programs, or any successor or substantially similar authority.