

S. RES. 837

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 837, a resolution designating the week of August 22 through August 30, 2026, as "National Park Week".

S. RES. 841

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 841, a resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine from the former Soviet Union.

AMENDMENT NO. 6716

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6716 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5334, an act to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation, as championed by the late Senator Lindsey O. Graham, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 6744

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 6744 intended to be proposed to S. 4668, a bill 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 5359. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to Pennington County, South Dakota, certain National Forest System land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. THUNE. 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. 5359

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 "Pennington County Land Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO PENNINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Pennington County, South Dakota.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means—

(A) the parcel of approximately 8.97 acres of National Forest System land within the boundary of the Black Hills National Forest, as generally depicted as "Parcel to be Conveyed" on the map entitled "Pennington County (SD) Highway Maintenance Facility Land Conveyance" and dated June 22, 2026; and

(B) any improvements to the National Forest System land described in subparagraph (A).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration and subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary determines to be appropriate, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land, to be used by the County for a public works facility or any other uses determined to be necessary by the County.

(c) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—On the conveyance of the Federal land to the County under subsection (b), the Secretary shall modify the boundary of the Black Hills National Forest to reflect the conveyance of the Federal land.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 5373. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to limit the compensation and benefits provided to executive officers of the Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my concerns with the U.S. Postal Service operations in South Dakota, my home State. Over the past year or so, my team has heard from thousands of South Dakotans expressing their frustrations and, frankly, anger about poor mail delivery in our State.

We have heard from veterans who are not getting their medication on time; we have heard from individuals who are having to pay late fees because their bills arrive the day they are due; and we have heard from people who simply aren't getting their mail delivered, even though they can see on the Postal Service app that they should be receiving it that day.

My team wanted to test it for ourselves. We wanted to see how long it would take to send a piece of first-class mail from our office in Rapid City, SD, to Pierre, SD, the capital of our State, which is about 172 miles driving distance away.

That would be from Rapid City to Pierre.

Instead of taking a direct route, this letter went from Rapid City west to Denver, and then to Des Moines, IA, across Nebraska and then from Des Moines, IA, to Fargo, ND, and then back to Pierre.

Let me do the math for you. This letter traveled over 1,800 miles across four different States just to end up back at South Dakota.

As soon as we caught wind of just how bad the mail service had gotten in South Dakota, I tried to have an open discussion with the Postal Service leaders. When it became clear to me

that they weren't interested in fixing it, I requested an investigation from the Office of the Inspector General of the Postal Service which happens to answer to Congress, not to the Postal Service.

The OIG accepted our request and began to investigate the issues with mail service in South Dakota. As a part of their investigations, they were on the ground in South Dakota earlier this year. For evidence of just how deep the problem in the Postal Service runs, the OIG reiterated to my team and to me that they had to do this investigation clandestinely. If Postal Service leaders caught wind of where OIG representatives were going to be on which days, they could try to manipulate the results.

Turns out, they were correct. As soon as it was announced that the OIG team would be heading to South Dakota, my team heard from local post office employees that they were being asked to hide piles of mail.

As I mentioned, we have also heard countless stories about lifesaving prescriptions not arriving for our veterans who get many of their refills through the mail. In fact, that is the desired route for many of our veterans to get their prescriptions.

According to the Black Hills VA, the USPS has lost so many important medications, that the VA has had to repeatedly notify the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Postal Service inspector general. In some parts of the country, the VA tells veterans they should order prescription refills at least 20 days before their supply runs out to account for these delays.

By comparison, it only took half that time to put a man on the Moon. I have even heard from the Secretary of the VA Doug Collins who, because of the nationwide postal delays, he directed his staff to look into policies on how the VA can better work with independent community pharmacies to give veterans the prescriptions they need to live a healthy life.

It should not come down to this.

Five years ago, the Postal Service told Congress that it needed billions of dollars in financial relief to become sustainable. Based on that promise, Congress passed the Postal Service Reform Act. They promised that the so-called Delivering for America plan would cut costs, improve service, and return the Postal Service to profitability.

Instead, today Americans face unprecedented costs when they want to mail a letter with delivery times worse than the Pony Express, all while the Postal Service continues to burn through billions of dollars as if money grows on trees.

The U.S. Postal Service decided that in order to be cost effective, they should deprioritize rural America. For many years, mail was picked up from post offices and routed to processing

facilities at least twice a day, regardless of where you lived or how rural you may be.

But under the Postal Service's Regional Transportation Optimization initiative, mail from post offices located more than 50 miles from a processing facility are only sent to processing facilities once in a single morning dispatch, and in many cases, this adds up to a full-day delay before a letter starts its journey to the processing facility.

Now, that is bad enough, but it also means that despite a letter being in the post office's legal possession, it is not postmarked until at least the next day. For many, this can be the difference between a tax return being on time or an absentee ballot being counted, simply because of where you live.

And despite these cost-saving measures, now the U.S. Postal Service is asking for billions more, all while senior executives receive large bonuses and lavish benefits like wellness reimbursement incentives, financial planning, retirement counseling services, TSA PreCheck—reimbursement for it—and membership in up to two airline lounge clubs per year.

The post office also created a deferred compensation program. Yes, a deferred compensation program to pay its highest paid officers above compensation limits that have been imposed by Congress.

That needs to end.

And that is the reason that I am introducing the USPS Executive Benefit and Bonus Removal Act. Incompetent bureaucrats should not get bonuses when the mail does not run on time. If the Postal Service were serious about cutting costs, they should have cut costs inside its own ivory tower before passing costs on to the American people who are still receiving terrible service.

In addition, I have announced that I am placing holds on every nominee for the Postal Service board of directors until their leaders take steps to fix mail service in South Dakota. I suspect other Senators from rural States may do the same.

To lift these holds, I want the Postal Service to commit to making these three fixes in South Dakota at a minimum: No. 1, immediately suspend their Regional Transportation Optimization in South Dakota on a permanent basis; No. 2, start delivering intrastate mail—meaning, mail inside of South Dakota—within 1 to 2 days using our existing facilities that they have already been scaling back; and No. 3, they need to commit fully to implementing all findings of the OIG investigation when it becomes available.

Now, I have spoken with some of my Senate colleagues who are seeing the same issues in rural parts of their States. I look forward to working together to find a different model for the Postal Service that actually works for the American people, again, despite the blinders that our Postal Service leadership seem to have on.

It is way past time that we put the "service" back into the Postal Service.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 842—EXPRESSING RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOTEL EMPLOYEES AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HOTEL EMPLOYEE DAY

Mrs. MOODY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 842

Whereas hotels are an essential part of the travel and tourism industry and support economic activity in communities throughout the United States;

Whereas nearly 2,000,000 individuals in the United States work in the hotel industry;

Whereas hotel employees serve guests in a wide variety of roles, including front desk and guest services, housekeeping and laundry services, food and beverage services, engineering and maintenance, security, recreation and event services, sales and marketing, accounting and finance, human resources, and hotel management;

Whereas hotel employees help facilitate family vacations, business travel, weddings, conferences, reunions, sporting events, and other significant occasions;

Whereas hotel employees work each day to provide guests with safe, welcoming, clean, and memorable experiences;

Whereas the dedication and professionalism of hotel employees are essential to the successful operation of hotels and the broader travel and tourism economy of the United States;

Whereas the hotel industry provides more than 200 different career paths and offers employees opportunities for professional development and advancement;

Whereas more than half of hotel general managers began their careers in entry-level positions, demonstrating the opportunities for advancement available within the hotel industry;

Whereas hotel employees strengthen their communities by supporting local businesses, welcoming visitors, assisting during emergencies and natural disasters, and contributing to charitable and civic activities;

Whereas the American Hotel & Lodging Association and National Day Calendar established "National Hotel Employee Day" in 2022 to recognize the service, professionalism, hard work, and dedication of hotel employees; and

Whereas National Hotel Employee Day is observed annually on September 1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and expresses appreciation for the service, professionalism, hard work, and dedication of hotel employees throughout the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Hotel Employee Day;

(3) recognizes the important contributions of hotel employees to the travel and tourism industry, the economy of the United States, and communities throughout the United States; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hotel Employee Day by thanking hotel employees and recognizing their contributions to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 843—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST 2026, AS "NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER WEEK", ENCOURAGING ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE BY VISITING THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, AND CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANT PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 843

Whereas, for over 60 years, community health centers have provided access to high-quality, affordable, comprehensive, preventive care for individuals in the United States, having a positive impact on the health system of the United States;

Whereas, as the largest primary care network in the United States, over 1,500 community health centers provide high quality care for up to 52,000,000 individuals in 17,000 communities, such that 1 in 7 individuals across the United States and 1 in 3 in rural areas rely on community health centers;

Whereas community health centers are an important element of the health system of the United States, serving rural, suburban, island, frontier, and urban communities, often as the only accessible and dependable source of primary care;

Whereas community health centers are responding to the growing burden of chronic disease by expanding access to nutrition services and lifestyle counseling, reducing expensive emergency room visits and hospital admissions, and keeping the people of the United States healthy;

Whereas community health centers integrate a wide range of services into primary care, such as mental health, dental, vision, hearing, and pharmacy services, creating a one-stop shop for all health-related needs;

Whereas community health centers are uniquely governed by patient-majority boards, ensuring communities are fully engaged in the strategy of community health centers for improving care access and quality;

Whereas community health centers are locally operated nonprofit organizations that empower local economies by generating nearly \$262,000,000,000 in economic activity across the United States;

Whereas community health centers nationally support 809,000 jobs, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, counselors, dentists, pharmacists, and community health workers on multidisciplinary teams;

Whereas the community health center model of care is effective at overcoming barriers to access, improving health outcomes, and saving taxpayer dollars;

Whereas, in 2025, community health centers provided cancer screening to nearly 11,000,000 patients and helped more than 4,000,000 patients control their hypertension and nearly 2,500,000 patients control their diabetes;