

Whereas public schools should foster inclusive, safe, and high-quality environments in which children can learn to think critically, problem solve, and build relationships;

Whereas public schools should provide environments in which all students have the opportunity to succeed in their earliest years, regardless of who a student is or where a student lives;

Whereas Congress should support—

(1) efforts to advance equal opportunity and excellence in public education;

(2) efforts to implement evidence-based practices in public education; and

(3) continuous improvements to public education;

Whereas every child should—

(1) receive an education that helps the child reach the full potential of the child; and

(2) attend a school that offers a high-quality educational experience;

Whereas Federal funding, in addition to State and local funds, supports the access of students to inviting classrooms, well-prepared educators, and services that support healthy students, such as nutritional and afterschool programs;

Whereas teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals should provide students with a well-rounded education and strive to create joy in learning;

Whereas superintendents, principals, other school leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents make public schools vital components of communities and are working hard to improve educational outcomes for children across the country; and

Whereas the week of February 23 through February 27, 2026, is an appropriate period to designate as “National Public Schools Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of February 23 through February 27, 2026 as “National Public Schools Week”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 622—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 21 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2026, AS “NATIONAL FFA WEEK”, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION IN DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBALLY CONSCIOUS LEADERS WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD, AND CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTERING OF THE STATE OF ALASKA AS A STATE FFA ASSOCIATION

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COTTON, Ms. BLUNT, Mr. ROCHESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. CORTEZ, Ms. MASTO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SCHIFF, and

Mr. MCCORMICK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 622

Whereas the National FFA Organization (referred to in this preamble as the “FFA”) was established in 1928;

Whereas the mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education;

Whereas the FFA has more than 1,000,000 members in 9,407 chapters in all 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the FFA welcomes all students;

Whereas more than 13,000 FFA advisors and agricultural education teachers deliver an integrated model of agricultural education, providing students with an innovative and cutting-edge education;

Whereas the FFA facilitates formative experiences, altering the course of students’ lives for the better;

Whereas FFA members develop the necessary career-readiness skills to continue their education in college or to enter the workforce immediately;

Whereas the FFA prepares members to be globally conscious citizens of their community, their State, their country, and the world;

Whereas the FFA provides opportunities to demonstrate literacy, advocacy, and technical skills in agriculture, food, and natural resources; and

Whereas members of the FFA will celebrate “National FFA Week” during the week of February 21 through February 28, 2026: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of February 21 through February 28, 2026, as “National FFA Week”;

(2) recognizes the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of globally conscious leaders who will change the world; and

(3) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the State of Alaska as a State FFA Association of the National FFA Organization, which now encompasses 19 chapters, and 493 National FFA members.

SENATE RESOLUTION 623—COMMEMORATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TEAM USA IN ICE HOCKEY

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KIM, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 623

Whereas the United States had a record number of 232 athletes participating in the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026;

Whereas the United States Women’s Hockey Team defeated Canada to win the gold medal on February 19, 2026;

Whereas the United States Women’s Hockey Team won their third gold medal since women first competed in ice hockey at the Olympics in 1998;

Whereas Megan Keller of Farmington Hills, Michigan, scored the game winning goal in overtime of the gold medal game;

Whereas Taylor Heise of Lake City, Minnesota, had an assist on the game winning goal in overtime of the gold medal game;

Whereas Caroline Harvey of Salem, New Hampshire, was named the Olympic Most Valuable Player of the women’s ice hockey tournament;

Whereas Laila Edwards of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, became the first Black woman to win gold with Team USA in women’s hockey;

Whereas the United States Men’s Hockey Team won their first gold medal since the “Miracle on Ice” in 1980, exactly 46 years to the day, on February 22, 2026;

Whereas goaltender Connor Hellebuyck of Commerce, Michigan, helped lead Team USA to victory with 41 saves;

Whereas Jack Hughes of Canton, Michigan, scored the game winning goal in overtime of the gold medal game with assists from Zach Werenski of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, and Connor Hellebuyck of Commerce, Michigan;

Whereas the United States Men’s Hockey Team paid tribute to the late Johnny Gaudreau following the gold medal game in recognition of his contribution to the sport of hockey and the loss his family continues to grieve;

Whereas this is the first time that both the United States Women’s and Men’s Hockey Teams won gold in the same Olympics;

Whereas the Olympic and Paralympic games provide an opportunity for people around the world to come together through athletics; and

Whereas the accomplishments of Team USA in ice hockey and across sports serve as inspiration to the next generation of athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the athletes and coaches of the United States Women’s and Men’s Hockey Teams and the families that support them;

(2) honors the accomplishments of Team USA in winning both the women’s and men’s ice hockey tournaments; and

(3) commemorates the value of these historic moments in inspiring young athletes.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, it is the end of February, but it sure feels like the beginning because it feels like Groundhog Day. We are in yet another partial government shutdown. We are in it right now.

What is interesting is we just had our last vote of the week, and this is still not resolved, and Members are all heading back home as if everything is normal, but it is not. Next week, we will have people who work for the Department of Homeland Security not get a paycheck because it is not funded because this body has not resolved this.

Now, I understand my Democratic colleagues want to defund ICE. I get that. I hear from them over and over again: Let's defund ICE. And their way of defunding ICE is to be able to cut off funding to this particular part of our Federal budget.

But I think some of my colleagues have lost track of what this means to be able to cut off DHS funding. It is not just cutting off ICE. In fact, ICE is a very small portion of the Department of Homeland Security. There are about 250,000 total employees across all entities in the Department of Homeland Security. ICE has 21,000 of that 250,000-plus. It is a very small group. But they are determined they are going to defund ICE.

What they are actually defunding is not just ICE. They have also defunded U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. They have defunded the U.S. Coast Guard. They have defunded Customs and Border Protection—those are all the folks that actually handle customs duties and produce coming across our border. They defunded the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Agency. They defunded FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They defunded the Federal law enforcement training centers. They have defunded U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—that is ICE, what they were targeting. They have also defunded the Secret Service. TSA—those folks that a lot of Members are going to go check in with to get on a flight right now—they are not getting a paycheck next

week, although they are still working this week. They defunded the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

Listen, this is a big deal. We just had a shutdown of 43 days—the longest in American history. Those TSA agents lost two paychecks during that time period. There are a lot of Americans who can't miss one and make it; they missed two.

The TSA agent I walked past a couple of weeks ago caught me as I came through and said: I feel like my paycheck is bipolar—I never know whether it is going to be there or not.

All I could say to them was: I am so sorry. We are trying to get this open.

But my Democratic colleagues are so mad at ICE and so determined that they don't want enforcement across the country that TSA agents in my State are not getting a paycheck.

What in the world do the TSA agents in my State have to do with the rage against ICE? What in the world do the Coast Guard folks have to do with the rage against ICE? What in the world do the FEMA folks that are handling emergencies, in preparation for spring storms, and dealing with wildfires across the country—what do they have to do with their rage against ICE?

If we want to have an argument about ICE, let's have it, but why are we cutting off the paychecks of folks that work for FEMA because somebody is mad at ICE? That makes no sense to me, and it certainly doesn't make sense to those folks at the airport in my State who work every single day, who show up way earlier than most Americans actually wake up and get up. They are already at their spot early that morning taking care of passengers and making sure everybody is safe. They have nothing to do with ICE—except now they are not getting a paycheck because somebody is mad.

We should be able to resolve our differences in this body and not have other people not get a paycheck because of that. I have worked literally for years across the aisle and in conversation in this body to be able to come up with a very simple, straightforward bill that says: When we get to a moment that we haven't resolved everything in funding, when we get to that moment, instead of having the government shut down, everyone would still be paid. We would go to what is called a continuing resolution automatically. Everyone would still get paid. The status quo would continue except one thing: We would not leave. We would be here, the House and the Senate, 7 days a week. We would have to be in session and keep working until we solve the problem.

Put the pressure on us. Rather than cutting off the paycheck of somebody who has no ability to be able to make the decision to solve this, why don't you put the pressure on us, where it should be, to be able to stay here until it is resolved?

Now, I want to see my family like everybody else does. There are folks that

have all kinds of issues that are happening this weekend. Some are going on codels. Some are heading overseas. Some are going home. Some have elections coming up. There are lots of things that are happening this weekend, and I totally understand everyone wanting to be able to get to those spots, but we have unfinished business. We should be here until it is done, and we should hold harmless the folks in Oklahoma airports who are just getting up every day and going to work to protect our country and protect travelers. We have to figure this out.

So we have two issues. One is, let's solve the immediate one right now. Let's actually get the government back open, and let's actually get people paid.

My Democratic colleagues have demanded that we have body-worn cameras on ICE agents. We as Republicans have said: We agree.

In fact, the bill that you are blocking literally has \$20 million and a requirement to have body-worn cameras for law enforcement in the bill that you are blocking. We agree. Body-worn cameras are helpful for law enforcement and for the public to tell the complete story of what actually happened.

My Democratic colleagues have demanded that we get deescalation training for Federal officers. We as Republicans have said: Yes, we agree with that as well.

In fact, the bill that you are blocking, that you refuse to even take up, actually includes money for deescalation training in it. And there is not some trick in it; it is the actual issue everyone seems to be addressing right now.

This is about the drama of the moment and trying to be able to prove that you oppose Trump. OK. We get it. You don't like President Trump. But what I don't get is, why are the folks that work for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, why are the folks that work at TSA, why are the Coast Guard members, why are the folks that handle weapons of mass destruction, why are the folks that handle cyber security for our Nation—why are we not paying them while we are having this political fight?

This may be good political drama, but for the quarter-million Federal employees that are getting up and going to work without a paycheck this week, it is not drama; it is a problem that we need to solve.

So let's finish up these negotiations, and let's actually pass a bill that long term says we will never have another one of these.

I long for the day when I sit with my grandchildren one day and they say "Tell me about the time that the government used to shut down when Congress had arguments," and I would say "Yes, there was a time that used to happen, but we fixed that, so that doesn't happen anymore."

Let's solve this. We are supposed to be the adults in the room to be able to