

time for a breach of a duty or a violation of the instructions provided.

POM-33. A house joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee urging the United States Congress to require the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to add COVID-19 treatments and anthrax vaccinations as pre-qualifying for care under the PACT Act; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 98

Whereas, many servicemembers have reportedly been unlawfully forced to accept COVID-19 drugs and anthrax vaccinations; and

Whereas, our government has a history of subjecting our servicemembers to experimental conditions and substances without their consent; and

Whereas, our national security and readiness to necessarily conduct war is adversely impacted by the unlawful administering of drugs and substances or exposures to experimental conditions. Many injuries are reported to have occurred in our servicemembers from a forced requirement to accept COVID-19 "vaccinations"; and

Whereas, our civilian and military leaders owe both an allegiance to the welfare of the warfighter and a responsibility to the Republic to ensure rules, regulations, and laws are followed closely in the administering of health care to our servicemembers; and

Whereas, the PACT Act of 2022 expanded the Department of Veterans Affairs coverage of health care and benefits for veterans to include those exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances; and

Whereas, recognizing a potential for generational damage, this law helps us provide generations of veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. It has been appropriate to recognize other chemical substances of which the unnecessary and forced exposure has caused damage to our servicemembers and their families; and

Whereas, the Department of Veterans Affairs has historically been slow to respond to toxic exposures, often leaving the service-member or veteran exposed with no recourse nor help for decades; it is incumbent upon our government to care for the wounded and injured warriors; and

Whereas, a group of whistleblowers has asserted that COVID-19 treatments were issued while the chemicals were only Emergency Use Authorized (EUA). The servicemen and servicewomen alleged that the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) has unlawfully administered EUA products as if they were fully licensed Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved products. Military regulations state service members have a legal right to refuse EUA products; and

Whereas, these whistleblowers contend that the FDA issued approval for Pfizer's Comirnaty vaccine in August 2021, but that none of the FDA-approved vaccines were available. FDA documents dated November 2021 state: "In the U.S., there are no licensed vaccines or antiviral drugs for the prevention of COVID-19." Furthermore, the FDA said the EUA-authorized Pfizer vaccines were "legally distinct" from the FDA-approved Comirnaty vaccines that were unavailable for service members in the U.S.; and

Whereas, anthrax vaccinations are reported to have been issued to millions of servicemembers, even at times when the drug was not fully approved; and

Whereas, in October 2004, a federal judge ordered the military to stop requiring anthrax vaccines for U.S. military personnel. In response, the Pentagon halted mandatory anthrax vaccinations "until further notice,"

but noted the court did not question the safety or effectiveness of the vaccine. Tennessee troops were issued anthrax vaccinations in 2004; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fourteenth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the Senate Concurring, that we strongly urge the United States Congress to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to add COVID-19 treatments, conducted under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and before FDA approval was granted, as pre-qualifying for care under the PACT Act.

Resolved, That we also strongly urge Congress to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to add anthrax vaccinations as qualifying for care under the PACT Act; and be it further

Resolved, That we also urge Congress to conduct a full investigation and provide a report of the timeline, including the accountable persons who made decisions, recommendations, and approvals of the decision to require servicemembers to accept the introduction of these chemicals, with their possible harmful or toxic side effects and outside of legal and lawful permission, into their bodies; and be it further

Resolved, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 6719. An act to prohibit threats to a minor, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3956. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an annual tax on the net value of assets held by a taxpayer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3957. A bill to support National Science Foundation education and professional development relating to artificial intelligence; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3958. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to transition Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3959. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3960. A bill to give Federal courts additional discretion to determine whether pre-trial detention is appropriate for defendants charged with nonviolent drug offenses in Federal criminal cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

S. 3961. A bill to prohibit solicitation by institutional investors after a major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 3962. A bill to improve interagency coordination between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Economic Development Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. KIM):

S. Res. 624. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of March 2 through March 6, 2026, as "National Social and Emotional Learning Week" to recognize the critical role social and emotional learning plays in supporting the academic success and overall well-being of students, educators, and families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 625. A resolution designating February 2026 as "Hawaiian Language Month" or "Olelo Hawai'i Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 567, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 1336

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1336, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes.

S. 1574

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1574, a bill to amend the Stored Communications Act to include Tribal courts as courts of competent jurisdiction.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry.

S. 1885

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to require the Federal Trade Commission, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Surgeon General, to implement a mental health warning label on covered platforms, and for other purposes.

S. 1892

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 1892, a bill to clarify that amounts from dec-

linations should be deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and to temporarily provide additional deposits into the Crime Victims Fund.

S. 1918

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1918, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 1929

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1929, a bill to establish programs to reduce rates of sepsis.

S. 2282

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, and for other purposes.

S. 2409

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2409, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes.

S. 2525

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2525, a bill to address transnational repression by foreign governments against private individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2903, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 2947

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2947, a bill to establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Prac-

tices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 3135

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3135, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize manufacturers of certain vehicles to suspend engine de-rate or shutdown functions in prolonged cold weather conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 3211

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3211, a bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 3394

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3394, a bill to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to amend the sentencing guideline relating to child sexual abuse material.

S. 3397

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3397, a bill to make coercion of children to commit harm a criminal offense, and for other purposes.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize intentional threats to distribute child sexual abuse material, and to provide appropriate penalties for the use of child sexual abuse material to extort or coerce victims.

S. 3455

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3455, a bill to authorize urbanized area formula grants for service improvement and safety and security enhancement, and for other purposes.

S. 3513

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3513, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons dealing in crude oil or petroleum products of Russian Federation origin.

S. 3653

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3653, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out

efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 3659

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) were added as cosponsors of S. 3659, a bill to establish a Strategic Resilience Reserve of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3761

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3761, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt qualified student loan bonds from the volume cap and the alternative minimum tax.

S. 3789

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3789, a bill to provide for a temporary adjustment to the prospectus thresholds for certain General Services Administration projects, and for other purposes.

S. 3791

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3791, a bill to reauthorize Regional Ocean Partnerships, and for other purposes.

S. 3865

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3865, a bill to prevent discrimination, including harassment, in employment.

S. 3916

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3916, a bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes.

S. 3923

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3923, a bill to improve the weather research of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, support improvements in weather forecasting and prediction, and expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data.

S. 3938

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of

S. 3938, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 3940

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3940, a bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to testify before Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 3953

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3953, a bill to authorize the Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture to support African American history education programs, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 79

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 79, a joint resolution honoring the sacrifice of Marine Corps Lance Corporal David L. Espinoza, Marine Corps Sergeant Nicole L. Gee, Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Darin Taylor Hoover, Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Christian Knauss, Marine Corps Corporal Hunter Lopez, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Rylee J. McCollum, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Dylan R. Merola, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Kareem M. Nikoui, Marine Corps Corporal Daegan W. Page, Marine Corps Sergeant Johnny Rosario, Marine Corps Corporal Humberto A. Sanchez, Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jared M. Schmitz, and Navy Petty Officer Third Class Maxton W. Soviak.

S.J. RES. 104

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 104, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 606

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 606, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its suppression of the right of Iranians to peacefully assemble.

S. RES. 620

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 620, a resolution designating February 28, 2026, as "Rare Disease Day".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3959. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 3959

*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 "Smarter Sentencing Act of 2026".

#### SEC. 2. SENTENCING MODIFICATIONS FOR CERTAIN DRUG OFFENSES.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102 (21 U.S.C. 802), by adding at the end the following:

“(61) The term ‘courier’ means a defendant whose role in the offense was limited to transporting or storing drugs or money.”; and

(2) in section 401(b)(1) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1))—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the flush text following clause (viii)—

(i) by striking “10 years or more” and inserting “5 years or more”; and

(ii) by striking “15 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), in the flush text following clause (viii)—

(i) by striking “5 years” and inserting “2 years”; and

(ii) by striking “not be less than 10 years” and inserting “not be less than 5 years”.

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the flush text following subparagraph (H)—

(A) by inserting “, other than a person who is a courier,” after “such violation”;

(B) by striking “person commits” and inserting “person, other than a courier, commits”; and

(C) by inserting “If a person who is a courier commits such a violation, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years and not more than life. If a person who is a courier commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a serious drug felony or serious violent felony has become final, the person shall be