S. 5634. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide additional amounts of loan forgiveness to teachers of English learners and teachers of bilingual and dual language immersion students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Supporting Providers of English Language Learning, SPELL, Act, which I introduced today.

English learners are one of the fastest growing student populations in the country. Across the United States, about 10 percent of all public school students are English learners. In California alone, nearly 19 percent of all public school students identify as English learners. Yet we are facing a devastating shortage of teachers with the skills needed to support these students. If we do not address this shortage, the achievement gap for this vulnerable group of students will continue to grow.

Educating students learning English requires specialized instruction and unique teacher strategies. If we are going to meet the needs of these students, we need to facilitate the training and retention of high-quality teachers for our English learners.

The SPELL Act, would amend the Higher Education Act to provide up to $17,500 in Federal student loan forgiveness for teachers of English learners, bilingual students, or dual immersion students in high-need schools. This would match the level of loan forgiveness offered to teachers of other in-demand subjects such as math, science, and special education.

By lessening the financial burden on prospective English learner teachers, we can help incentivize a greater number of passionate and highly qualified teachers to enter and stay in the classroom.

As a Senator representing one of the most diverse States in the country with the most English learners and as an English learner myself, I am proud to work with my colleagues to push forward legislation to support our teachers. I want to thank Representative ESPAILLAT for introducing this bill in the House, and I hope our colleagues will join us in supporting our English learner teachers and students.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 929—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING EQUITY STAKES HELD BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PRIVATE COMPANIES

Ms. ROSEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 929

Whereas, since January 2025, Federal agencies have announced the acquisition of equity or equity-like interests in private companies through more than 35 transactions, representing more than $27,000,000,000 in taxpayer funds;

Whereas, in August 2025, 1789 Capital, a venture capital firm in which the son of President Trump is a partner, invested in Vulcan Elements, a rare earth magnet manufacturer, and, months later, the Department of Defense announced a conditional commitment to lend $620,000,000 to the company and the Federal Government agreed to take a $50,000,000 equity stake in the company;

Whereas, in January 2026, the Department of Commerce announced a tentative agreement to provide up to $1,600,000,000 in funding and loans to USA Rare Earth and to acquire approximately a 10 percent stake in the company, and, on the same day, USA Rare Earth announced a $1,500,000,000 private offering of the stock of the company, for which the lead placement agent was Cantor Fitzgerald, a firm formerly led by the Secretary of Commerce and now led by the sons of the Secretary of Commerce; and

Whereas equity interests acquired with taxpayer funds belong to the people of the United States and must never be used to enrich Federal officials, Members of Congress, or the families of Federal officials or Members of Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President, the Vice President, members of the Cabinet, Members of Congress, officials who participate in Federal equity transactions, and the spouses, children, sons-in-law, and daughters-in-law of any such individuals should be prohibited from—

(1) profiting from any Federal acquisition of an equity interest in a private company, including through ownership of the company or through any fee, commission, or other compensation connected to any such transaction; and

(2) purchasing or receiving any equity interest the Federal Government sells or transfers, or receiving compensation connected to any such sale or transfer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 930—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 2026, AS ''WORLD MENOPAUSE AWARENESS MONTH'' AND FOR GLOBAL AWARENESS AND ACCESS TO CARE DURING MENOPAUSAL TRANSITION AND POST-MENOPAUSE

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 930

Whereas, each year, October 18 marks World Menopause Day, a day when organizations and individuals around the world advocate to improve awareness of menopause and support options available for improving health and well-being;

Whereas, by 2030, the world population of menopausal and postmenopausal women is projected to increase to 1,200,000,000, with 27,000,000 new entrants each year;

Whereas, each year, women in the United States enter the menopausal transition with little guidance on what to expect before, during, and after their reproductive years;

Whereas, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, as many as 3 out of 4 women experience hot flashes, the most common menopause symptom, and other symptoms include memory loss, urinary problems, depression, and anxiety;

Whereas menopausal symptoms can be severe and affect daily activities and quality of life with hot flashes lasting an average of 7 to 9 years, with a third of women experiencing vasomotor symptoms for a decade or longer;

Whereas studies show that Black and Hispanic women may experience menopause earlier, more intense menopausal symptoms, and for a longer period of time;

Whereas as many as 40 percent of menopausal women say their symptoms interfered with their work performance or productivity weekly, and nearly 1 in 5 have left or considered leaving the workforce because of their symptoms;

Whereas menopause costs women in the United States an estimated $1,800,000,000 in lost working time per year;

Whereas, due to medical innovation, a variety of effective treatments for symptoms are available, including non-hormonal medication, hormone therapy, and low-dose antidepressants, that can help improve quality of life during perimenopause and menopause;

Whereas, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, menopause may increase the risk of osteoporosis, heart disease, and stroke; and

Whereas there is an ongoing need for additional clinical research and treatment options to manage menopause symptoms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of ''World Menopause Awareness Month'';

(2) recognizes the impact of menopause on women at individual and societal levels, as well as on the health and economic development of the United States;

(3) promotes including training on menopause and treatment options in pre-service curricula for health workers;

(4) supports women having access to appropriate health information and services to promote healthy aging and a high quality of life before, during, and after menopause;

(5) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to—

(A) provide information to women, patients, and health care providers with respect to menopause, including available screening tools and treatment options, with a goal of improving quality of life and health outcomes of women affected by menopause;

(B) conduct additional research on menopause and possible clinical options; and

(C) update information, tools, and studies currently available with respect to helping women live with menopause; and

(6) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 931—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2026 AS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF FILIPINO AMERICANS AND THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary: