

Whereas preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs, including through the reduction of risk factors, such as tobacco use and early elective deliveries, and the promotion of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 2016 as “World Prematurity Month”;

(2) supports efforts in the United States, and recognizes efforts abroad, to—

(A) reduce the impact of preterm births by improving maternal health; and

(B) advance the care and treatment of infants who are born preterm; and

(3) honors individuals working in the United States and internationally to reduce the number of preterm births.

SENATE RESOLUTION 625—SUPPORTING THE GOALS, ACTIVITIES, AND IDEALS OF WORLD PREMATURETY DAY

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 625

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, complications from preterm birth are the world’s leading killer of children younger than 5 years of age;

Whereas preterm birth is a global problem, exacting a harsh toll on families from all parts of society in every country;

Whereas, in 2015, complications from preterm birth accounted for 1,000,000 deaths of children younger than 5 years of age worldwide;

Whereas there are stark inequalities with respect to the survival rates of preterm babies born around the world;

Whereas up to 75 percent of deaths resulting from preterm birth worldwide could be prevented through proven low-cost interventions;

Whereas countries can improve maternal health and the survival rate of babies born prematurely by making strategic investments in health care systems to ensure access to—

(1) high quality prenatal and postnatal care;

(2) quality childbirth services;

(3) emergency obstetric care; and

(4) comprehensive care for affected newborns;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, premature birth is the leading contributor to infant death in the United States and poses the risk of lifelong health problems for babies who survive;

Whereas, while the preterm birth rate in the United States decreased from a peak of 12.8 percent in 2006 to 9.6 percent in 2015, the rate remains too high;

Whereas many communities in the United States experience significant racial and ethnic disparities in preterm birth rates;

Whereas, in 2005, the Institute of Medicine estimated that the annual societal economic cost associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26,200,000,000; and

Whereas preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs, including through the reduction of risk factors, such as tobacco use and early elective deliveries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 17, 2016, as “World Prematurity Day”;

(2) supports efforts in the United States, and recognizes efforts abroad, to—

(A) reduce the impact of preterm births by improving maternal health; and

(B) advance the care and treatment of infants who are born preterm; and

(3) honors individuals working in the United States and internationally to reduce the number of preterm births.

SENATE RESOLUTION 626—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 626

Whereas the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (referred to in this preamble as “MD Anderson Cancer Center”) has provided continuous health services for 75 years;

Whereas the Texas legislature established MD Anderson Cancer Center in 1941 as part of the University of Texas system with an appropriation of \$500,000 and a matching funding grant from the MD Anderson Foundation to build a cancer hospital and research center;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center is 1 of the original 3 comprehensive cancer centers in the United States that was established by the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-216);

Whereas as of November 2016, MD Anderson Cancer Center is 1 of the largest and most respected centers devoted exclusively to cancer patient care, research, education, and prevention in the world;

Whereas the mission of MD Anderson Cancer Center—

(1) is to eliminate cancer in Texas, the United States, and the world through exceptional programs that integrate patient care, research, and prevention; and

(2) includes education for undergraduate and graduate student trainees, professionals, employees, and the public;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center is dedicated to embracing the 3 core values of caring, integrity, and discovery;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Texans have received quality medical care from MD Anderson Cancer Center during its 75 years of service;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center has invested hundreds of millions of dollars towards scientific breakthroughs in the fight against cancer, including nearly \$800,000,000 in fiscal year 2015;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center is home to the largest cancer clinical trial program in the world, with more than 9,400 patients participating in almost 1,200 clinical trials;

Whereas MD Anderson has educated tens of thousands of health professionals, including physicians, scientists, nurses, and allied health professionals during its 75 years of service;

Whereas MD Anderson has employed tens of thousands of hardworking individuals who have devoted their lives to the care, concern, and healing of patients;

Whereas the commitment of MD Anderson Cancer Center to individuals who have served in the United States military earned MD Anderson Cancer Center a place on the 2015 Best for Vets employer list;

Whereas MD Anderson Cancer Center—

(1) was ranked number 1 for cancer care in the survey of best hospitals published in U.S. News and World Report in 2016; and

(2) has been named 1 of the top 2 cancer centers in the United States every year since that survey began in 1990; and

Whereas the nursing program at MD Anderson Cancer Center holds the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Magnet Nursing Services Recognition status, which recognizes health care organizations for quality patient care, nursing excellence, and innovations in professional nursing practice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas; and

(2) commends MD Anderson Cancer Center and its employees for providing quality care to hundreds of thousands of patients over the last 75 years.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 57—HONORING IN PRAISE AND REMEMBRANCE THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE, STEADY LEADERSHIP, AND REMARKABLE, 70-YEAR REIGN OF KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 57

Whereas His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej enjoyed a special relationship with the United States, having been born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1927 while his father was completing his medical studies at Harvard University;

Whereas King Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended to the throne on June 9, 1946, and celebrated his 70th year as King of Thailand in 2016;

Whereas, at the time of his death, King Bhumibol Adulyadej was the longest-serving head of state in the world and the longest-reigning monarch in the history of Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty dedicated his life to the well-being of the Thai people and the sustainable development of Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty led by example and virtue with the interest of the people at heart, earning His Majesty the deep reverence of the Thai people and the respect of people around the world;

Whereas His Majesty reached out to the poorest and most vulnerable people of Thailand, regardless of their status, ethnicity, or religion, listened to their problems, and empowered them to take their lives into their own hands;

Whereas, in 2006, His Majesty received the first United Nations Human Development Award, recognizing him as the “Development King” for the extraordinary contribution of His Majesty to human development;

Whereas His Majesty was recognized internationally in the areas of intellectual property, innovation, and creativity, and in 2006, the World Intellectual Property Organization presented His Majesty with the Global Leadership Award;

Whereas His Majesty was an anchor of peace and stability for Thailand during the turbulent decades of the Cold War;

Whereas His Majesty was always a trusted friend of the United States in advancing a strong and enduring alliance and partnership between the United States and Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty addressed a joint session of Congress on June 29, 1960, during which His Majesty reaffirmed the strong

friendship and good will between the United States and Thailand;

Whereas the United States and Thailand remain strong security allies, as memorialized in the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty (commonly known as the “Manila Pact of 1954”) and later expanded under the Thanat-Rusk Communiqué of 1962;

Whereas, for decades, Thailand has hosted the annual Cobra Gold military exercises, the largest multilateral exercises in Asia, to improve regional defense cooperation;

Whereas Thailand has allowed the Armed Forces of the United States to use the Utapao Air Base to coordinate international humanitarian relief efforts;

Whereas President George W. Bush designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally on December 30, 2003;

Whereas close cooperation and mutual sacrifices in the face of common threats have bound the United States and Thailand together and established a firm foundation for the advancement of a mutually beneficial relationship; and

Whereas, on October 13, 2016, at the age of 88, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away, leaving behind a lasting legacy for Thailand: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the extraordinary life, steady leadership, and remarkable, 70-year reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand;

(2) extends our deepest sympathies to the members of the Royal Family and to the people of Thailand in their bereavement; and

(3) celebrates the alliance and friendship between Thailand and the United States that reflects common interests, a 183-year diplomatic history, and a multifaceted partnership that has contributed to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I have five 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 30, 2016, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a Subcommittee hearing entitled “The Dawn of Artificial Intelligence.”

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 30, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 30, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Initial Observations of the New Leadership at the U.S. Border Patrol.”

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 30, 2016, at 3 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 30, 2016, in room SD-562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Trust Betrayed: Financial Abuse of Older Americans by Guardians and Others in Power.”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Laura Willing, a health fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the calendar year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM ACT OF 2016

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 578, S. 2971.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2971) to authorize the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italics.)

S. 2971

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 “National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 327. NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions shall apply:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(2) AGENCY.—The term ‘Agency’ means the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(3) HAZARD.—The term ‘hazard’ has the meaning given the term in section 602.

“(4) NONEMPLOYEE SYSTEM MEMBER.—The term ‘nonemployee System member’ means a System member not employed by a sponsoring agency or participating agency.

“(5) PARTICIPATING AGENCY.—The term ‘participating agency’ means a State or local government, nonprofit organization, or private organization that has executed an agreement with a sponsoring agency to participate in the System.

“(6) SPONSORING AGENCY.—The term ‘sponsoring agency’ means a State or local government that is the sponsor of a task force designated by the Administrator to participate in the System.

“(7) SYSTEM.—The term ‘System’ means the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System to be administered under this section.

“(8) SYSTEM MEMBER.—The term ‘System member’ means an individual who is not a full-time employee of the Federal Government and who serves on a task force or on a System management or other technical team.

“(9) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘task force’ means an urban search and rescue team designated by the Administrator to participate in the System.

“(b) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Administrator shall continue to administer the emergency response system known as the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

“(c) FUNCTIONS.—In administering the System, the Administrator shall provide for a national network of standardized search and rescue resources to assist States and local governments in responding to hazards.

“(d) TASK FORCES.—

“(1) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate task forces to participate in the System. The Administration shall determine the criteria for such participation.

“(2) SPONSORING AGENCIES.—Each task force shall have a sponsoring agency. The Administrator shall enter into an agreement with the sponsoring agency with respect to the participation of each task force in the System.

“(3) COMPOSITION.—

“(A) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—A task force may include, at the discretion of the sponsoring agency, 1 or more participating agencies. The sponsoring agency shall enter into an agreement with each participating agency with respect to the participation of the participating agency on the task force.

“(B) OTHER INDIVIDUALS.—A task force may also include, at the discretion of the sponsoring agency, other individuals not otherwise associated with the sponsoring agency or a participating agency. The sponsoring agency of a task force may enter into a separate agreement with each such individual with respect to the participation of the individual on the task force.

“(e) MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL TEAMS.—The Administrator shall maintain such management teams and other technical teams as the Administrator determines are necessary to administer the System.

“(f) APPOINTMENT OF SYSTEM MEMBERS INTO FEDERAL SERVICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may appoint a System member into Federal service for a period of service to provide for the participation of the System member in exercises, preincident staging, major disaster and emergency response activities, and training events sponsored or sanctioned by the Administrator.

“(2) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE LAWS.—The Administrator may make appointments under paragraph (1) without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service.

“(3) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—The authority of the Administrator to make appointments under this subsection shall not