

quadrilateral security cooperation known as the Quad which met on March 12, 2021, and reaffirmed its commitment to a shared vision for an Indo-Pacific region that is “free, open, inclusive, healthy, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion”;

Whereas people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan are long-standing and deep, as exemplified by the gift of the beautiful cherry trees that dot our Nation’s capital from the People of Japan to the People of the United States in 1912, and the cherry blossom festivals currently taking place across our Nation, signifying an unbreakable bond between the two nations; and

Whereas, in April 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga will visit the United States at the invitation of President Joe Biden: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to the United States;

(2) reaffirms the importance of the United States-Japan alliance for maintaining peace and stability and fostering a free and open Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(3) supports ongoing efforts to further strengthen the United States-Japan alliance, including the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (2+2) to confront threats posed by aggressive actors that threaten the peace and safety of both nations;

(4) supports strong cooperation between the United States and Japan in safeguarding maritime security and ensuring freedom of navigation, commerce, and overflight in the East and South China Seas;

(5) affirms the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article V of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and remain opposed to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea or undermine Japan’s administration of these islands;

(6) acknowledges Japan’s critical role as the sole East Asian member of the Quad, which commits to a shared vision for a free and inclusive Indo-Pacific region;

(7) stands in solidarity with Japan as it seeks justice and accountability for its abductees, and pledges the full support of the United States for Japan in seeking to resolve this issue;

(8) recognizes the support of the Government of Japan in addressing global challenges, including COVID-19 challenges, that threaten the health and safety of people everywhere;

(9) supports the expansion of academic and cultural exchanges between the United States and Japan, especially efforts to encourage Japanese students to study at universities in the United States, and vice versa, to deepen people-to-people ties;

(10) encourages the expansion of collaboration for research and development of new and emerging cyber technologies with Japan, especially to address global challenges posed by the proliferation of digital authoritarianism;

(11) promotes deepening the economic and trade ties between the United States and Japan, including the empowerment of women, which is vital for the prosperity of both our nations, the Indo-Pacific region, and the world; and

(12) calls for continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in the promotion of human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE PATRIOTISM AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES PROVIDED BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. TUBERVILLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:

S. RES. 143

Whereas, throughout the United States, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (referred to in this preamble as the “pandemic”) has devastated veterans and their families;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this preamble as the “VA”) has tested or treated over 230,000 cases of COVID-19 and has recorded over 10,000 known deaths caused by COVID-19;

Whereas over 1,000,000 veterans lost their jobs because of the pandemic, with veteran unemployment reaching nearly 12 percent in April 2020;

Whereas many veterans have experienced feelings of isolation and loneliness caused by the public health restrictions needed to curb the spread of COVID-19;

Whereas, since their inception, Veterans Service Organizations (referred to in this preamble as “VSOs”) have always supported and advocated on behalf of members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families;

Whereas VSOs have adapted to the unique challenges posed by the pandemic in order to continue to support veterans and advocate for the veteran community;

Whereas members of VSOs have fostered a sense of connection and community amid the pandemic by—

- (1) calling, emailing, or writing to fellow veterans;
- (2) delivering food and groceries to fellow veterans and their families; and
- (3) hosting virtual and socially distanced events;

Whereas members of VSOs have conducted thousands of peer-wellness checks to combat the ongoing mental health crisis that has been exacerbated by the pandemic;

Whereas VSOs have continued to help veterans access healthcare during the pandemic by—

- (1) assisting veterans with enrollment in VA healthcare plans;
- (2) enabling access to telehealth; and
- (3) providing hundreds of thousands of rides to medical appointments;

Whereas VSOs have helped veterans find employment by—

- (1) connecting veterans to employers;
- (2) hosting virtual job fairs; and
- (3) providing online job search resources;

Whereas representatives of VSOs have helped hundreds of thousands of veterans navigate a VA benefits claims process that has been changed by the pandemic;

Whereas VSOs are playing an essential role in encouraging all veterans to get vaccinated;

Whereas members of VSOs are volunteering at vaccination sites across the United States to help their fellow veterans and all other individuals in the United States receive the COVID-19 vaccine; and

Whereas VSOs will continue to play an instrumental role representing and supporting the veteran community as the United States moves forward on the path towards recov-

ering from the pandemic: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and recognizes the patriotism and service to the United States provided by Veterans Service Organizations (referred to in this resolution as “VSOs”) during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) commends efforts by VSOs to improvise and adapt to the challenges posed by COVID-19 to continue to support veterans in need, especially those left most vulnerable by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(3) supports efforts by VSOs to enable veterans, their families, and their caregivers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MARCH 21 THROUGH MARCH 27, 2021, AS “NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK” AND ENCOURAGING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF POISONING AND PROMOTE POISON PREVENTION

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 144

Whereas the designation of National Poison Prevention Week was first authorized by Congress and President Kennedy in 1961 in Public Law 87-319 (75 Stat. 681);

Whereas National Poison Prevention Week occurs during the third full week of March each year;

Whereas, as of February 10, 2021, poison centers have handled more than 838,000 cases related to the COVID-19 pandemic alone and have seen dramatic increases in cases relating to hand sanitizer and household cleaning products;

Whereas poison control centers responded to COVID-19 related surges by conducting poison safety and poisoning prevention outreach in a virtual format during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the American Association of Poison Control Centers (referred to in this preamble as the “AAPCC”) works with the 55 poison control centers in the United States to track—

- (1) more than 1,000 commonly used household and workplace products that can cause poisoning; and
- (2) poisonings and the sources of those poisonings;

Whereas the National Poison Data System (NPDS) database contains over 447,000 products, ranging from viral and bacterial agents to commercial chemical and drug products;

Whereas, in 2019, 2,148,141 people called the poison help line to reach a poison control center;

Whereas, in 2019, as reported to the AAPCC, 92 percent of poison exposures reported to local poison control centers occurred in the home;

Whereas local poison control centers save the people of the United States \$1,800,000,000 in medical costs annually;

Whereas the AAPCC and poison control centers partner with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and State, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments to monitor occurrences of environmental, biological, and emerging threats in communities across the United States, including food poisoning, botulism, and vaping-associated lung injury;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 300 children 19 years of age and younger are

treated in emergency departments for poisoning every day, and more than 130 children 19 years of age and younger die as a result of being poisoned each year;

Whereas, in 2019, children younger than 6 years of age constituted 43 percent of all poison exposures;

Whereas, from 2000 to 2018, data from poison control centers revealed a significant increase of an average of 3.4 percent per year in the number of intentional suicide patients who were adolescents 10 to 24 years of age, and that increase disproportionately occurred among females;

Whereas, in 2021, poison control centers are seeing an increase in suspected suicides in individuals ranging from 11 to 14 years of age;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 114,000 children 19 years of age and younger were treated in an emergency room due to unintended pediatric poisoning, and more than 90 percent of those incidents occurred in the home, most often with blood pressure medications, acetaminophen, laundry packets, bleach, or sedatives or anti-anxiety medication;

Whereas there was a 444 percent increase in pediatric magnet ingestion cases reported to United States poison control centers from 2018 to 2019 based on an analysis of the National Poison Data System (NPDS), demonstrating the significant risk of injury from high-powered magnet ingestions;

Whereas 70,237 cases of death due to drug overdose were reported in the United States in 2017, and the majority of those cases, approximately 68 percent, involved an opioid;

Whereas, in 2019, the most common medications that adults called the poison help line about were prescription and non-prescription pain relievers, household cleaning substances, cosmetics and personal care products, and antidepressants;

Whereas pain medications lead the list of the most common substances implicated in adult poison exposures, and are the single most frequent cause of pediatric fatalities reported to the AAPCC;

Whereas poison control centers issue guidance and provide support to individuals, including individuals who experience medication and dosing errors;

Whereas more than 60 percent of calls to the poison help line are from individuals 20 years of age or older, with more than half of those calls involving patients older than 50 years of age, and a common reason for those calls is therapeutic errors, including questions regarding drug interactions, incorrect dosing route, timing of doses, and double doses;

Whereas normal, curious children younger than 6 years of age are in stages of growth and development in which they are constantly exploring and investigating the world around them, and are often unable to read or recognize warning labels;

Whereas the AAPCC engages in community outreach by educating the public on poison safety and poisoning prevention, and provides educational resources, materials, and guidelines to educate the public on poisoning prevention;

Whereas individuals can reach a poison control center from anywhere in the United States by calling the poison help line at 1-800-222-1222;

Whereas, despite regulations of the Consumer Product Safety Commission requiring that a child-resistant package be designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for children under 5 years of age to open, or obtain a harmful amount of the contents, within a reasonable time, children can still open child-resistant packages; and

Whereas, each year during National Poison Prevention Week, the Federal Government assesses the progress made by the Federal

Government in saving lives and reaffirms the national commitment of the Federal Government to preventing injuries and deaths from poisoning; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the week of March 21 through March 27, 2021, as “National Poison Prevention Week”;

(2) expresses gratitude for the people who operate or support poison control centers in their local communities;

(3) expresses gratitude for frontline workers supporting poison prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(4) supports efforts and resources to provide poison prevention guidance or emergency assistance in response to poisonings; and

(5) encourages—

(A) the people of the United States to educate their communities and families about poison safety and poisoning prevention; and

(B) health care providers to practice and promote poison safety and poisoning prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 145—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2021 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 145

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and may improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to the prevention of asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related

diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than individuals in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2021 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—DESIGNATING APRIL 2021 AS “SECOND CHANCE MONTH”

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

S. RES. 146

Whereas every individual is endowed with human dignity and value;

Whereas redemption and second chances are values of the United States;

Whereas millions of citizens of the United States have a criminal record;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals return to their communities from Federal and State prisons every year;

Whereas individuals returning from Federal and State prisons have paid their debt for committing crimes but still face significant legal and societal barriers (referred to in this preamble as “collateral consequences”);

Whereas collateral consequences for an individual returning from a Federal or State prison are often mandatory and take effect automatically, regardless of—

(1) whether there is a nexus between the crime and public safety;

(2) the seriousness of the crime;

(3) the time that has passed since the individual committed the crime; or

(4) the efforts of the individual to make amends or earn back the trust of the public;

Whereas, for individuals returning to their communities from Federal and State prisons, gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful reentry and has been shown to reduce future criminal activity;

Whereas many individuals who have been incarcerated struggle to find employment because of collateral consequences, which are often not directly related to the offenses the individuals committed or any proven public safety benefit;

Whereas many States have laws that prohibit an individual with a criminal record from working in certain industries or obtaining professional licenses;

Whereas, in addition to employment, education has also been shown to be a significant predictor of successful reentry for individuals returning from Federal and State prisons;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record often has a lower level of educational attainment than the general population and has significant difficulty acquiring admission to, and funding for, educational programs;

Whereas an individual who has been convicted of certain crimes is often barred from receiving the financial aid necessary to acquire additional skills and knowledge;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record—