

(C) partner with nonprofit and community-based organizations to provide those covered individuals with assistance applying for the Lifeline program and information about product and technology choices.

(2) MULTIPLE STATE AGENCIES.—A State that receives a grant under this section may provide grant funds to 1 or more agencies located within the State to carry out the activities under the grant.

(f) OUTREACH TO STATES REGARDING GRANT PROGRAM.—Before accepting applications for the grant program established under this section, the Commission shall conduct outreach to States to ensure that States are aware of the grant program and how to apply for a grant under the grant program.

(g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after establishing the grant program under this section, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of individuals notified of Lifeline program eligibility by States receiving grants under this section;

(B) the number of new applicants to the Lifeline program from States receiving grants under this section, including the number of those applicants whose Lifeline program applications were approved and the number of those applicants whose Lifeline program applications were denied; and

(C) the cost-effectiveness of the grant program established under this section.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for the first 5 full fiscal years beginning after the establishment of the grant program under this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 149—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE A-10 THUNDERBOLT II ATTACK AIRCRAFT PROGRAM, ALSO KNOWN AS THE WARTHOG AND A-10C OR OA-10C

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 149

Whereas the A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft (referred to in this preamble as the “A-10”)—

(1) has seen action in every major United States Military conflict since the first production A-10 was delivered to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in October 1975; and

(2) since that time, has received several upgrades that are reflected in the 281 A-10s in service as of the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas, since Operation Desert Storm in 1991, the A-10 has become a preferred close air support platform for ground troops, striking fear in the enemies of the United States and inspiring pride in the members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the A-10, which has been the backbone of the close air support mission of the Air Force for more than 40 years, has proven to be a highly accurate, mobile, and durable weapons-delivery platform that can be used against all ground targets;

Whereas the A-10 supports close air support with a variety of forward-firing, free-fall, and precision-guided munitions;

Whereas the A-10 is able to perform combat search and rescue, air interdiction, armed reconnaissance, suppression of enemy air defenses, special operations forces support, and countersea operations in low-threat and high-threat environments, day or night;

Whereas the A-10 provides the Air Force with an extensive ability to survey the battlefield and then fix, engage, target, and destroy a wide range of mobile and fixed targets as an arsenal aircraft, including tanks and other highly armored vehicles in quantity;

Whereas the A-10 was specifically designed with protection from small-arms fire, including self-sealing fuel tanks, redundant flight controls, and a titanium cockpit tub, which has proven vital to the safe return of pilots despite heavy damage from enemy ground fire;

Whereas the A-10 has the lowest rate of friendly fire incidents of any combat fighter or bomber;

Whereas the A-10 has one of the largest carrying capacities for a fighter-type aircraft and can carry a wide range of munitions and electronic countermeasures without sacrificing air-to-ground capabilities;

Whereas the close air support provided by the A-10, which has proven invaluable on the battlefield, is better than the close air support provided by any other fighter aircraft because—

(1) the A-10 has excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitudes; and

(2) the close air support provided by the A-10 is simple and effective;

Whereas the slower airspeeds of the A-10 enable longer loiter times, increasing support to troops in contact and battlefield coverage;

Whereas, of all combat planes in the arsenal of the United States, the A-10 is the least expensive to operate and purchase;

Whereas, while the A-10 flew only 30 percent of the total sorties of the Air Force during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, these aircraft achieved more than half of the confirmed Iraqi equipment losses and fired 90 percent of the precision-guided Maverick missiles;

Whereas, during Operation Allied Force in 1999—

(1) A-10s destroyed more field-deployed Serbian weaponry than any other allied weapon system; and

(2) combat search and rescue support from the A-10 was 100 percent effective, successfully rescuing 1 F-117 pilot and 1 F-16CG pilot;

Whereas, during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, the A-10 flew 32 percent of the combat sorties in both theaters, and from 2006 to late 2013, the A-10 flew 19 percent of close air operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the A-10 is an effective close air support platform to counter violent extremist organizations, including the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas the continuing demands for close air support in Iraq and Afghanistan keep the A-10 a relevant platform, but one that requires upgrades;

Whereas, if the A-10 is removed from service, certain gaps in responsive close air support, forward air controller, air interdiction, strike control and reconnaissance, and combat search and rescue support could widen;

Whereas the A-10 can be serviced and operated with high sortie rates from austere bases with limited facilities or logistical support near battle areas, including unprepared dirt, grass, and narrow road runways,

and from airfields that are too short or rough to handle fast jets;

Whereas global power is essential to preserving global security and stability, and the A-10 is essential to ensuring that the United States is able to continue providing unmatched airpower, to gain and maintain air superiority, and to extend its global reach;

Whereas the A-10 program supports the Air Force, including the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, the A-10 is flying in operational combat squadrons at—

(1) Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona;

(2) Eglin Air Force Base, Florida;

(3) Moody Air Force Base, Georgia;

(4) Gowen Field Air National Guard Base, Idaho;

(5) Fort Wayne Air National Guard Station, Indiana;

(6) Warfield Air National Guard Base, Maryland;

(7) Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan;

(8) Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri;

(9) Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; and

(10) Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea;

Whereas the 355th Wing at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, with an inventory of 84 A-10s—

(1) has deployed 12 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; and

(2) is responsible for training all A-10 pilots;

Whereas the 175th Wing at Warfield Air National Guard Base, with an inventory of 21 A-10s, has deployed 6 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; and

Whereas the 442nd Fighter Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, with an inventory of 27 A-10s, has deployed 9 times since September 11, 2001, primarily in support of troops on the ground; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to support the A-10 Thunderbolt II program in future fiscal years because—

(1) continued support for the A-10 Thunderbolt II program is imperative to the national security of the United States; and

(2) the United States cannot afford to risk its national security, or the national security of its allies, by allowing that program to fall short of its vital mission.

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA “JERI” BUSTAMANTE ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

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

S. RES. 150

Whereas Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as “Jeri Bustamante”) lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication, and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2021, marks 3 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as “Jeri Bustamante”);

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO TAKE ACTION TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 151

Whereas the United States is facing a pandemic, and economic crisis, caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) that threatens the health and financial well-being of nearly every family in the United States;

Whereas even before the COVID-19 pandemic, consumers and patients in the United States were charged higher prices for prescription drugs than consumers and patients in other countries around the world;

Whereas families in the United States continue to face financial hardship from unaffordable out-of-pocket costs and higher premiums that have been exacerbated by an economic crisis and losses in employer-sponsored health coverage;

Whereas 8 in 10 individuals in the United States say the cost of prescriptions is unreasonable, and nearly 3 in 10 individuals across the United States are rationing their medicine due to high prescription drug costs;

Whereas the prescription drug cost crisis has put families at risk for poor health outcomes, increasing the likelihood of complications from a severe case of COVID-19 for those families;

Whereas even before the COVID-19 pandemic, people of color, including Black, Brown, and indigenous people, were disproportionately impacted by high prescription drug costs, which was due in part to a higher prevalence of chronic conditions in those populations that require expensive prescription drugs;

Whereas people of color, including Black, Brown, and indigenous people, are dying at much higher rates as a result of COVID-19, and other diseases, for which affordable prescription drugs can and should be available;

Whereas any price gouging by pharmaceutical companies is a root cause of health disparities in the United States;

Whereas nearly 1 in 3 individuals in the United States facing increased prescription drug costs spend less on basic necessities, including groceries, to account for that increased prescription drug cost;

Whereas approximately 25 percent of the monthly premium for a health care consumer in the United States goes to prescription drug costs;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 health care consumers decline other medical tests or procedures, or put off a visit to the doctor's office, because of increased prescription drug costs;

Whereas pharmaceutical companies abuse monopoly control granted by the Federal Government, in the form of patents and regulatory exclusivities, to limit competition and raise prescription drug costs;

Whereas 8 out of 10 new drug patents are for slight modifications to existing drugs, not for innovating new drug products;

Whereas 9 out of 10 of the largest pharmaceutical companies spend more on sales and marketing than on researching new drugs;

Whereas each of the 356 drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration between 2010 and 2019 was developed through taxpayer-funded research conducted by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas the 18 pharmaceutical companies on the S&P 500 spent more money on stock buybacks and dividends than on research and development between 2009 and 2018;

Whereas the pharmaceutical and medical products industry spent \$295,000,000 on lobbying in 2019, more than any other industry and nearly double the next closest industry;

Whereas the pharmaceutical industry employs more lobbyists than there are Members of Congress;

Whereas the 25 largest pharmaceutical companies in the United States achieve an average profit margin above 20 percent, more than twice the average profit margin of the other 500 largest companies in the United States;

Whereas pharmaceutical spending growth in the United States is projected to outpace inflation for the foreseeable future;

Whereas pharmaceutical companies raised the price of 245 drugs in the first 5 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the average price increase being 23.8 percent;

Whereas 61 of the 245 prescription drugs that saw price hikes during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic were being used to treat COVID-19, and another 30 drugs were undergoing clinical trials for use against that virus;

Whereas nearly 9 in 10 adults in the United States said they were concerned the pharmaceutical industry would use the pandemic to raise prescription drug prices;

Whereas the United States spends twice as much money on prescription drugs when compared to other economically-comparable countries, including Canada, France, and the United Kingdom, despite purchasing fewer drugs per individual;

Whereas adults in the United States consistently rank the pharmaceutical industry as their least liked industry, with the industry being ranked less favorably than the oil, banking, and airline industries;

Whereas 8 out of 10 adults in the United States say prescription drug costs are unreasonable and driven by the desire for profits by pharmaceutical companies;

Whereas the President can license generic competition with patented products when it

is in the public interest, including to combat abusive price gouging by large pharmaceutical companies;

Whereas the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this preamble as the “Secretary”) can require reasonable pricing in return for receiving Federal funding and other support for research and development; and

Whereas the President and the Secretary can lower prescription drug prices under existing law and authorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the authority of the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this resolution as the “Secretary”) to lower prescription drug prices;

(2) calls on the President and the Secretary to take administrative action to lower prescription drug prices under existing law and authorities, including—

(A) Federal Government use, pursuant to section 1498(a) of title 28, United States Code;

(B) march-in rights, pursuant to section 203 of title 35, United States Code;

(C) royalty-free rights, pursuant to sections 202(c)(4) and 209(d)(1) of title 35, United States Code;

(D) the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, established by section 1115A(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a(a)(1)); and

(E) all other existing law and authorities; and

(3) encourages the President to use existing law and authorities to align prescription drug prices in the United States with drug prices in other economically-comparable countries, including Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Germany.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER WILLIAM FRANCIS “BILLY” EVANS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE FOR HIS SELFLESS ACTS OF HEROISM ON THE GROUNDS OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ON APRIL 2, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr.