

Whereas, since the 1870s, minority groups such as Black Americans in the South have suffered from the oppressive effects of Jim Crow laws that were designed to prevent political, economic, and social mobility;

Whereas Black Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other underrepresented voters were subject to violence, poll taxes, literacy tests, all-White primaries, property ownership tests, and grandfather clauses that were designed to suppress the right of those individuals to vote;

Whereas 5,200,000 people in the United States are currently banned from voting because of a felony conviction, including 1 in 16 Black adults, due to the shameful entanglement of racial injustice in the criminal legal system and voting access in the United States;

Whereas members of the aforementioned groups and others are currently, in some cases, subject to intimidation, voter roll purges, and financial barriers that act effectively as modern-day poll taxes;

Whereas, in 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to protect the right of Black Americans and other traditionally disenfranchised groups to vote, among other reasons;

Whereas, in 2013, in the landmark case of *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), the Supreme Court of the United States invalidated section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, dismantling the preclearance formula provision in that Act that protected voters in States and localities that historically have suppressed the right of minorities to vote;

Whereas, since the invalidation of the preclearance formula provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, gerrymandered districts in many States have gone unchallenged and have become less likely to be invalidated by the courts;

Whereas these gerrymandered districts have been found to have discriminatory impacts on traditionally disenfranchised minorities through tactics that include “cracking”, diluting the voting power of minorities across many districts, and “packing” or concentrating minority voters’ power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts;

Whereas the courts have found the congressional and, in some cases, State legislative district maps, in Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Wisconsin to be gerrymandered districts that were created to favor some groups over others;

Whereas the decision of the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), calls on Congress to update the formula in the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas these restrictive voting laws encompass cutbacks in early voting, voter roll purges, placement of faulty equipment in minority communities, requirement of photo identification, and the elimination of same-day registration;

Whereas these policies could outright disenfranchise or make voting much more difficult for more than 80,000,000 minority, elderly, poor, and disabled voters, among other groups;

Whereas, in 2016, discriminatory laws in North Carolina, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Texas were ruled to violate voters’ rights and overturned by the courts;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (referred to in this preamble as “COVID-19”) public health emergency has only exacerbated the state of elections and the difficulties voters face in obtaining access to the ballot;

Whereas a lack of fair and safe election policies threatens minority communities, which have been disproportionately im-

pacted and disenfranchised due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and their access to the ballot;

Whereas addressing the challenges of administering future elections requires increasing the accessibility of vote-by-mail and other limited-contact options to ensure the protection of voters’ health and safety amid a global pandemic;

Whereas, as voting by mail becomes a safer and more accessible option for voters to exercise their constitutional right to vote during the unprecedented times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the United States Postal Service will be of paramount importance in successfully conducting elections;

Whereas Congress must work to combat any attempts to dismantle or underfund the United States Postal Service or obstruct the passage of the mail as blatant tactics of voter suppression and election interference;

Whereas following the 2020 elections there has been a relentless attack on the right to vote with more than 400 bills having been introduced to roll back the right to vote, including such bills being introduced in almost every State and at least 31 of such bills having been signed into law in 18 States;

Whereas there is much more work to be done to ensure all citizens of the United States have the right to vote through free, fair, and accessible elections, and Congress must exercise its Constitutional authority to protect the right to vote;

Whereas National Voter Registration Day is September 22; and

Whereas September 2021 would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Voting Rights Month” and to ensure that, through the registration of voters and awareness of elections, the democracy of the United States includes all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2021 as “National Voting Rights Month”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to uphold the right of every citizen to exercise the sacred and fundamental right to vote;

(3) encourages Congress to pass—

(A) the For the People Act of 2021 (S. 2093 and H.R. 1 of the 117th Congress), to increase voters’ access to the ballot, prohibit the use of deceptive practices to intimidate voters, end gerrymandering, create automatic voter registration, limit the power of restrictive voter identification laws, make critical investments in election infrastructure and technology, and address corruption in campaign finance and ethics;

(B) the Freedom to Vote Act (S. 2747 of the 117th Congress), to set basic national standards to make sure all people in the United States can cast their ballots in the way that works best for them, regardless of what ZIP code they live in, improve access to the ballot for people in the United States, advance commonsense election integrity reforms, and protect the democracy of the United States from relentless attacks;

(C) the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021 (H.R. 4 of the 117th Congress), to restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) that prohibit discriminatory voting practices, remove barriers to voting, and provide protections for minority voters in States with a history of voting discrimination;

(D) the Democracy Restoration Act (S. 481 of the 117th Congress), to restore Federal voting rights to citizens after release from imprisonment, honoring the responsibilities of citizenship and civic engagement necessary for building healthy and safe communities, while welcoming the contributions of

people returning home after imprisonment; and

(E) other voting rights legislation that seeks to advance voting rights and protect elections in the United States;

(4) recommends that public schools and universities in the United States develop an academic curriculum that educates students about—

(A) the importance of voting, how to register to vote, where to vote, and the different forms of voting;

(B) the history of voter suppression in the United States before and after passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

(C) current measures that have been taken to restrict the vote;

(5) encourages the United States Postal Service to issue a special John R. Lewis stamp during the month of September—

(A) to honor the life and legacy of John R. Lewis in supporting voting rights; and

(B) to remind people in the United States that ordinary citizens risked their lives, marched, and participated in the great democracy of the United States so that all citizens would have the fundamental right to vote; and

(6) invites Congress to allocate the requisite funds for public service announcements on television, radio, newspapers, magazines, social media, billboards, buses, and other forms of media—

(A) to remind people in the United States when elections are being held;

(B) to share important registration deadlines; and

(C) to urge people to get out and vote.

SENATE RESOLUTION 402—PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENGROSSMENT OF S. RES. 357

Mr. HAWLEY submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 402

Resolved, That in the engrossment of the resolution S. Res. 357, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following correction:

(1) In the sixth whereas clause of the preamble, strike “and youngest”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 403—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS “NATIONAL HEALTHY AGING MONTH” TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND ENCOURAGE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS AND THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES 403

Whereas individuals who are 65 years of age or older are the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States, and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from approximately 56,100,000 in 2020 to an estimated 80,800,000 by 2040;

Whereas 90 percent of the \$3,800,000,000,000 in annual health care expenditures in the United States are for people with chronic physical and mental health conditions;

Whereas 80 percent of older adults have at least 1 chronic condition and nearly 70 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have 2 or more chronic conditions;

Whereas more than 868,000 people in the United States die of heart disease or stroke every year, costing the health care system of the United States \$214,000,000,000 per year and causing \$138,000,000,000 in lost productivity on the job;

Whereas, each year, more than 1,700,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with cancer and almost 600,000 die from it, costing an estimated \$174,000,000,000 in 2020;

Whereas more than 34,200,000 people in the United States have diabetes and another 88,000,000 adults in the United States have prediabetes, putting them at risk for type 2 diabetes, both of which cost a total estimated \$327,000,000,000 in medical costs for diagnosed diabetes and lost productivity in 2017;

Whereas obesity affects 19 percent of children and 42 percent of adults, including older adults who have obesity rates exceeding 37.5 percent in males and 39.4 percent in females, costing the health care system \$147,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of injury, and injury-related death, among older adults and result in medical costs totaling \$50,000,000,000 per year, 75 percent of which are paid by Medicare and Medicaid;

Whereas approximately 20 percent of older adults experience some type of behavioral health concern, including anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, cognitive impairment, and substance use disorders, which are often factors in suicide among older adults;

Whereas factors that influence healthy aging include—

- (1) improving diet and exercise;
- (2) managing risk factors for physical and behavioral health conditions, as well as falls;
- (3) keeping up with regular health screenings and preventative care; and
- (4) staying socially active; and

Whereas, as of August 2021, nearly 11,000 senior centers serve 1,000,000 older adults aged 50 and older, helping them continue to be part of a community, exercise, and receive nutritious meals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2021 as “Healthy Aging Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance of exercise, nutrition, health promotion, disease prevention, and social engagement;

(B) encouraging the balance of mind, body, and spirit, as older individuals can share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing that people in the United States are living longer and a healthy lifestyle will help enhance later life experiences.

SENATE RESOLUTION 404—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL RETIREMENT SECURITY MONTH, INCLUDING RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE VARIOUS TAX-PREFERRED RETIREMENT VEHICLES, INCREASING PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND ENGAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE KEYS TO SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING RETIREMENT SECURITY THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFETIMES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 404

Whereas people in the United States are living longer, and the cost of retirement is increasing significantly;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States—

(1) up to 40 percent of households in which the head of household is between the ages of 35 and 64 are likely to run out of money in retirement; and

(2) the amount that workers have saved for retirement is much less than the amount those workers need to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas the financial literacy of workers in the United States is important so that those workers understand the need to save for retirement;

Whereas saving for retirement is a key component of overall financial health and security during retirement years, and the importance of financial literacy in planning for retirement must be advocated;

Whereas many workers may not—

(1) be aware of their various options in saving for retirement; or

(2) have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for retirement and successfully achieving retirement security;

Whereas, although many employees have access to defined benefit and defined contribution plans through their employers to assist such employees in preparing for retirement, many of those employees may not be taking advantage of those plans at all or to the full extent allowed by Federal law;

Whereas saving for retirement is necessary even during economic downturns or market declines, underscoring the importance of continued contributions;

Whereas all workers, including public and private sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from developing personal budgets and financial plans that include retirement savings strategies that take advantage of tax-preferred retirement savings vehicles;

Whereas effectively and sustainably withdrawing retirement resources throughout an individual's retirement years is as important and crucial as saving and accumulating funds for retirement; and

Whereas the month of October 2021 has been designated as “National Retirement Security Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Retirement Security Month, including raising public awareness of the importance of saving adequately for retirement;

(2) acknowledges the need to raise public awareness of the variety of tax-preferred retirement vehicles that are used by many people in the United States, but remain underutilized; and

(3) calls on States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Retirement Security Month with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing the retirement savings and personal financial literacy of all people in the United States and enhancing the retirement security of the people of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3834. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3835. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1301, to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans.

SA 3836. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3835 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1301, supra.

SA 3837. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1301, supra.

SA 3838. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3837 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1301, supra.

SA 3839. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3838 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 3837 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1301, supra.

SA 3840. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. WICKER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 558, to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3834. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Subtitle —Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021”.