

S. Res. 488. A resolution congratulating the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Blugolds on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Volleyball Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 489. A resolution commending the actions of Cuban human rights and democracy activist Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, and all pro-democracy and human rights activists, in demanding fundamental civil liberties in Cuba and speaking out against Cuba's brutal, totalitarian Communist regime; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 72

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 72, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 464

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 464, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 880

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 880, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal employment discrimination and retaliation claims, and for other purposes.

S. 902

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 902, a bill to authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of housing supply and affordability plans, and for other purposes.

S. 936

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 936, a bill to require online marketplaces to collect, verify, and disclose certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products to inform consumers.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1596, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1725, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 2710

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2710, a bill to promote competition and reduce gatekeeper power in the app economy, increase choice, improve quality, and reduce costs for consumers.

S. 3052

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 3052, a bill to promote free and fair elections, democracy, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes.

S. 3232

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3232, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for freestanding clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes.

S. 3318

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3318, a bill to deter foreign financial institutions from providing banking services for the benefit of foreign terrorist organizations and from facilitating or promoting payments for acts of terrorism.

S. 3380

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3380, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from retroactively reducing certain determinations under the Renewable Fuel Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3412

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3412, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to enforce the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to COVID-19 vaccine and mask requirements for Head Start programs.

S. 3436

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3436, a bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to entities responsible for the planning, construction, or operation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and their corporate officers and to apply congressional review under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act to the removal of sanctions relating to Nord Stream 2, and for other purposes.

S. 3463

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3463, a bill to impose sanctions and other measures in response to the failure of the Government of the People's Republic of China to allow an investigation into the origins of COVID-19 at suspect laboratories in Wuhan.

S. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 35, a resolution condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 390

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 390, a resolution expressing appreciation for the State of Qatar's efforts to assist the United States during Operation Allies Refuge.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 3492. A bill to address the importance of foreign affairs training in national security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an act, co-sponsored

by Senator HAGERTY, that addresses the importance of foreign affairs training to national security and, more specifically, intends to improve training and professional development of the Foreign Service officers and civil service staff at the U.S. State Department.

This act calls for the State Department to move beyond its traditional approach towards a more robust professional training program, incorporating innovative education and training courses, methods, and opportunities. Employees of the State Department have a long, honorable tradition of providing excellence in diplomacy, but it is time to modernize the training and professional development they receive, enabling them to more effectively promote our national security interests abroad and ensuring the retention of our best and brightest employees.

The legislation will accomplish the following: provide a more effective and updated training program for employees of the State Department, to include increased virtual instruction that is interactive and more accessible to personnel deployed around the world, as well as increased training provided by partner organizations such as universities, industry entities, and non-governmental organization, NGOs; establish a Chief Learning Officer position to serve as the principal adviser to the Secretary of State and strategist for State Department training and development; and establish a nonpartisan Board of Visitors to provide independent advice and recommendations regarding training at the Foreign Service Institute.

Other key elements of the legislation include establishment of a clear link between required employee training and promotional opportunities and assignments at the State Department; a “training float” strategy that will allow 10 to 15 percent of Foreign Service and civil service officers and staff to participate in training at any given time; a call for the State Department to establish new fellowship programs for Foreign Service and civil service officers and staff in addition to the current Pearson and Brookings Fellowship Programs, allowing them to participate in short- and long-term opportunities at think tanks, nongovernmental organizations, the Department of Defense, industry entities, and relevant university programs; and establishment of a Center for Innovation in Training and a Provost position at the Foreign Service Institute, to evaluate all courses and curriculum offered by FSI and identify necessary updates to meet the frequent changes required by officers due to changing global dynamics.

The Department of State is a crucial national security agency, whose employees, both Foreign Service and civil service, require the best possible training at every stage of their careers to prepare them to promote and defend U.S. national interests and the health and safety of U.S. citizens abroad.

As chair of the Subcommittee on U.S. State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development, along with Ranking Member Senator HAGERTY, I have presided over the first two in a planned series of subcommittee hearings on modernization of the State Department. The most recent hearing, held in November of last year, made clear that the numerous studies issued about the State Department's need to change its culture, starting with an innovative training and professional development program, were on the mark.

During the hearing, we heard that “everything is fine” at State in terms of training, while the Department's retention rate indicates the loss of experienced Foreign Service officers and civil servants. External witnesses Ambassador David Miller, president of the Diplomatic Studies Foundation, and Joshua Marcuse, who formerly served as the Executive Director of the Defense Innovation Board, painted a very different picture, calling for an overarching effort to change the culture of the State Department—which as one of the oldest Federal Departments is steeped in tradition and protocol—to transform it once again into the lead Agency executing American foreign policy overseas.

The level of challenges the State Department faces now around the world are almost unprecedented, with the return of great power competition, the rise of authoritarianism, the collapse of Afghanistan, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and—not least—assisting American citizens around the world. Professional education and training must be top priorities at the State Department, and we must strengthen the professionalization of our diplomats through a career-long program that focuses on mastery of substantive foreign policy issues, diplomatic expertise, superb customer service for American citizens abroad, and leadership.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken gave a speech last fall on “Modernizing American Diplomacy,” and one of the five pillars he described is that of building and retaining a diverse, dynamic, and entrepreneurial workforce, and empowering and equipping State Department employees to succeed. This bill will kick-start the rebuilding effort Mr. Blinken spoke about, putting the emphasis on training and professional development of the Department's greatest asset: its people.

I remain committed to continuing to work with the Biden administration and my colleagues in Congress to provide every opportunity for State Department employees to receive the best possible training at every stage of their careers, to prepare them to promote and defend U.S. national interests and the health and safety of U.S. citizens abroad.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3493. A bill to require guidance on extending expiration dates for certain drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight legislation I am introducing with the senior Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, to address prescription drug shortages. We rely on prescription drugs to battle infectious diseases like SARS-CoV-2, for the treatment of cancer and hormonal disorders and in countless other facets of modern medicine. When drug shortages, which are unforeseen supply disruptions, occur, healthcare teams must scramble to develop new plans of care because the optimal treatment is no longer available. The Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act will help tackle drug shortages by enabling the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, to extend the shelf of certain drugs at risk of shortage in a safe fashion.

Prescription drug shortages are a persistent problem, leading to diminished access to vital medications and potentially catastrophic outcomes for patients. FDA wrote in its 2019 Drug Shortages Task Force Report that discarding drugs if they exceed an unnecessarily short expiration date can exacerbate drug shortages. Essentially, the shelf life for certain drugs can be safely extended, and I support empowering authorities to do so to prevent drug shortages.

Last year, I introduced the Drug Shortages Prevention & Quality Improvement Act. The legislation would address some of the main causes of drug shortages and provide solutions to mitigate their effects. The legislation would give the FDA additional tools to mitigate drug shortages, such as extending shelf lives for certain essential drugs. This legislation also seeks to address prescription drug shortages by creating incentives for manufacturers to upgrade their facilities to prevent shortages. Some of the facilities FDA has tied to drug shortages have been operating continually since the 1960s with minimal upgrades to manufacturing lines and facilities. The FDA Drug Shortages Task Force report found that quality concerns caused 62 percent of drug shortages from 2013 to 2017.

Last April, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, HELP, Committee Chair MURRAY and Ranking Member BURR announced plans to develop a bipartisan initiative to prepare the Nation for future public health emergencies in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. I applaud this effort to modernize our national response efforts for the current pandemic and future pandemics and look forward to consideration of this legislation on the floor of the Senate. I was particularly pleased to see language included in the HELP Committee's discussion draft for this preparedness initiative from the Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act. Extending shelf lives of certain

drugs is not only critical to prevent drug shortages but also to enable our prescription drug supply chain to be more responsive and better prepared to respond to public health emergencies.

Domestically, we continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. We are nearing record-high hospitalizations due to COVID-19, including record-high levels for children. In my State of Maryland, we have encountered a new record-high hospitalization level every day since December 29. For many patients, the severity and mortality rates are lower due to higher vaccination levels and better treatments gleaned from our experience in battling COVID-19 so far, but these high hospitalization rates are straining an already overburdened system.

As we continue fighting the pandemic, in addition to other diseases and illnesses, timely access to medications is essential for our healthcare providers and their patients. The Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act would require FDA to update guidance tied to manufacturer testing of the shelf life of prescription drug and to report to Congress on actions taken to update the shelf life dates of relevant drugs. Shelf life expiration dates are established through regulations governing prescription drug stability testing, which need to be reexamined since they have not been amended since 1981. I look forward to working with the Biden administration as it implements this essential legislation and related regulations.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator COLLINS and me in support of the Drug Shortages Shelf Life Extension Act to improve access to essential prescription drugs and to prevent or mitigate future drug shortages. No one should have to go without essential prescriptions drugs when usable supplies are available but have potentially inaccurate use-by dates stamped on their box or bottle.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 487—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN BADGERS ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 487

Whereas, on December 18, 2021, the University of Wisconsin Badgers won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division I Women's Volleyball Championship and finished the season with an impressive record of 31 wins and 3 losses;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin women's volleyball team defeated the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers in a thrilling 5-set

match to win the program's first ever national championship;

Whereas the following players should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication in representing the University of Wisconsin with dignity: Izzy Ashburn, Lauren Barnes, Joslyn Boyer, Giorgia Civita, Jade Demps, Liz Gregorski, MJ Hammill, Danielle Hart, Sydney Hilley, Lauren Jardine, Grace Loberg, Anna MacDonald, Julia Orzol, Sydney Reed, Dana Rettke, Devyn Robinson, Anna Smrek, and Julia Wohler;

Whereas the Badgers were led by an outstanding coaching and support staff, including Kelly Sheffield, Brittany Dildine, Gary White, Jessica Williams, Annemarie Hickey, Mackenzie Long, Kristen Walker, Kevin Schultz, Katie Smith, Diane Nordstrom, and Bianca Miceli;

Whereas the championship point was scored by senior middle blocker Dana Rettke, the 2021 National Player of the Year and the only 5-time American Volleyball Coaches Association (referred to in this preamble as the "AVCA") First-Team All-American in NCAA Volleyball history;

Whereas freshman opposite hitter Anna Smrek was named the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA National Championship, while Dana Rettke and Sydney Hilley were also named to the NCAA National Championship All-Tournament Team;

Whereas senior setter Sydney Hilley was also selected as the 2021 Senior CLASS Award recipient as the most outstanding senior student-athlete in Division I women's volleyball;

Whereas Assistant Coach Brittany Dildine was named the AVCA Division I National Assistant Coach of the Year;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin women's volleyball team—

(1) captured the 2021 Big Ten conference championship for the third consecutive season;

(2) featured 3 players who earned AVCA All-American honors at the end of the season, Dana Rettke, Sydney Hilley, and Lauren Barnes; and

(3) has had a history of players, past and present, who also represent the University of Wisconsin on the international stage;

Whereas the players and staff persevered through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the Badger women's volleyball team has brought great pride and honor to the University of Wisconsin and its alumni, loyal fans, and the State of Wisconsin: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Wisconsin Badgers on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Volleyball Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to this championship season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, Rebecca Blank;

(B) the Athletic Director of the University of Wisconsin, Chris McIntosh; and

(C) the Head Coach of the University of Wisconsin volleyball team, Kelly Sheffield.

SENATE RESOLUTION 488—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE BUGOLDS ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION III WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 488

Whereas, on November 20, 2021, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Bugolds won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Volleyball Championship and finished the season with an impressive record of 35 wins and 3 losses;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire women's volleyball team defeated the Calvin University Knights in 3 sets to win the program's first ever national championship;

Whereas Ava Aldag, Makenzie Bachmann, Kendra Baierl, Arianna Barrett, Sophia Brown, Sheridan Dettmann, Hannah Flottmeyer, Sarah Kuchcik, Emma Macken, Libby Macken, Charlie Nelson, Clara Olson, Kelly Page, Olivia Rooney, Maren Saunders, Taylor Scalia, Erika Stensland, Victoria Van Dan, Abby Volk, and Jordan Witzel worked hard, showed great dedication, and represented the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with dignity;

Whereas the coaching and support staff of the Bugolds, Kim Wudi, Alex Berger, Jodi Risen, Katrina Raskie, Dylan Graber, Robin Baker, Nick Hoven, Rachel Delanois, and Erin Sparks, guided the team throughout the season;

Whereas Assistant Coach Jodi Risen was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division III Assistant Coach of the Year;

Whereas the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire women's volleyball team—

(1) also captured the 2021 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships; and

(2) featured 3 players who earned American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American honors at the end of the season, specifically—

(A) Kendra Baierl;

(B) Charlie Nelson; and

(C) Arianna Barrett;

Whereas the players and staff of the Bugold women's volleyball team persevered through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas the Bugold women's volleyball team has brought great pride and honor to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and its alumni, loyal fans, and the State of Wisconsin: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Bugolds on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Women's Volleyball Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to this championship season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, James C. Schmidt;

(B) the Athletic Director of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Dan Schumacher; and