

we are not where we hoped to be back then.

First, the Biden Administration needs to restore the policy on landmines that was put in place during the Obama Administration. The White House said they would but it has not happened yet. There is no excuse for delaying.

Second, we need to continue to provide the funding for humanitarian demining and survivors assistance. Fortunately, this is not a partisan issue. It is simply a matter of continuing to treat it as a priority.

And third, this is my last year in the Senate and while I will do everything I can while I am here, we need others to continue to advocate for the United States to sign the international treaties banning anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions. It should have happened already, and we have to keep working until it does.

I have seen first-hand the effects of landmines and other unexploded munitions. It is horrific, especially when it's a young child with a leg or an arm missing. Or a parent blinded and crippled by a landmine, being led around by a child.

We should be the country that leads the world in ending not only the carnage of landmines and UXO left behind, but the production, export, use and stockpiling of these indiscriminate weapons that don't belong in the arsenals of civilized nations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 576—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 576

Whereas the week of April 4, 2022, is designated as National Public Health Week by the American Public Health Association;

Whereas the theme for National Public Health Week in 2022 is "Public Health is Where You Are";

Whereas the goal of National Public Health Week in 2022 is to recognize the contributions of public health in—

(1) improving the health of the people of the United States; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, the United States and the global community are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires support for—

(1) a robust public health infrastructure and workforce;

(2) State, territorial, local, and Tribal health departments, health care workers, public health laboratories, and first responders;

(3) diagnostic testing of new and potential COVID-19 cases and activities related to epidemiology and public health data;

(4) complying with appropriate social distancing and quarantine recommendations;

(5) relieving financial burdens for individuals in the United States hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through public health emergency leave;

(6) the Medicaid programs and community health centers of States to ensure care for vulnerable populations;

(7) collaboration among the Federal Government, State and local governments, schools, businesses, and employers to support public health measures to decrease community spread of COVID-19;

(8) investments in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that support infectious disease outbreak preparedness and critical public health infrastructure for State and local health departments and public health laboratories;

(9) a comprehensive effort to ensure a successful COVID-19 vaccination campaign that boosts access to vaccines for vulnerable populations and trust in vaccine safety and effectiveness; and

(10) efforts to address racism as a public health crisis and reduce racial and ethnic health disparities related to COVID-19 deaths, vaccine access and testing, and important health outcomes outside of the pandemic such as maternal mortality;

Whereas, in 2020, the life expectancy at birth for the population of the United States declined by 1.5 years, which is the largest drop in life expectancy since 1943;

Whereas many of the leading causes of death for individuals in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health challenges;

Whereas there are significant differences in the health status of individuals living in the healthiest States and those living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic disease, and the prevalence of infectious disease;

Whereas racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States continue to experience disparities in the burden of illness and death, as compared to the entire population of the United States;

Whereas violence is a leading cause of premature death, and it is estimated that more than 7 individuals per hour die a violent death in the United States;

Whereas deaths from homicides cost the economy of the United States billions of dollars, and the violence of homicides can cause social and emotional distress, community trauma, injury, disability, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas more than 47,500 lives were lost due to suicide in 2019, and in May 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts began to increase among adolescents aged 12 to 17 years, especially among girls;

Whereas an estimated 1 in 7 children in the United States experience child abuse and neglect, and 1,840 children died of abuse and neglect in 2019;

Whereas, despite significant progress in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019, the infant mortality rate in the United States still greatly varies among States;

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries, and an estimated 60 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable;

Whereas Black mothers experience a maternal mortality rate 3 to 4 times higher than White mothers;

Whereas there were an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the United States during the 12-month period ending in April

2021, the highest level ever recorded during a 12-month period and an increase of 28.5 percent from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the prior year;

Whereas cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths each year, including more than 41,000 deaths resulting from secondhand smoke;

Whereas the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes has decreased from 20.9 percent in 2005 to 13.7 percent in 2018;

Whereas, in 2020, according to data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey, 19.6 percent of high school students (3,020,000 students) and 4.7 percent of middle school students (550,000 students) reported current e-cigarette use;

Whereas data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showed that in 2020 approximately 40 percent of high school e-cigarette users were using an e-cigarette on 20 or more days of the month, and approximately ¼ of high school e-cigarette users were using e-cigarettes every day, indicating a strong dependence on nicotine among youth;

Whereas, in the past 2 decades, heat-related mortality for older individuals has almost doubled, reaching a record high of approximately 19,000 deaths in 2018;

Whereas, from 2018 to 2019, the United States spent approximately \$13 per person on climate change adaptation in the health sector, far less than what is needed to prevent the growing health impacts of climate change;

Whereas, in 2016, fine particulate air pollution led to more than 64,000 premature deaths in the United States, and Black and Hispanic individuals in the United States were disproportionately impacted;

Whereas voting helps shape the conditions in which people can be healthy, and good health is consistently positively associated with higher likelihood of voter participation;

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate public policymakers and public health professionals on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in disease prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in—

(1) the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

(2) health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to—

(1) a 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths;

(2) a 3.2 percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease;

(3) a 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes; and

(4) a 1.1 percent decrease in cancer-related deaths;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including—

(1) disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) natural disasters, such as wildfires, flooding, and severe storms; and

(3) other disasters, including disasters caused by human activity and public health emergencies;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health

sector, including city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health outcomes;

Whereas, in communities across the United States, individuals are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in—
(A) preventing and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(B) mitigating short-term and long-term impacts of infectious disease outbreaks on the health and wellness of individuals in the United States;

(C) addressing social and other determinants of health, including health disparities experienced by minority populations; and

(D) improving the overall health of individuals and communities in the United States;

(4) encourages increased efforts and resources—

(A) to improve the health of individuals in the United States; and

(B) to make the United States, in 1 generation, the healthiest country in the world by—

(i) providing greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(ii) strengthening the public health system and workforce in the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health across the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have one request 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 THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 4, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m.

on Tuesday, April 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the motion to discharge the Gordon nomination; that at 10:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the motion to discharge and that, following the vote, the Senate resume legislative session; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor again today to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. This is the eighth week in a row that I have come to the floor to talk about the illegal, totally unprovoked, and brutal Russian invasion of a sovereign country—their neighbor Ukraine—that only wants to live in peace.

Over the weekend, all of us saw the brutality of what Russia is doing. We saw it up close through shocking videos and photographs of more than 100 civilians—not soldiers but civilians—lying in mass graves in Bucha, a suburb of Kyiv.

Yesterday, Human Rights Watch released a report documenting specific atrocities, including rapes and executions.

President Zelenskyy painted a vivid, heartbreaking picture this weekend when he spoke of “civilians left on the streets with their hands tied behind their backs—killed execution style.”

Here is one photograph of the shocking scenes that we saw over the weekend of civilians left in the streets as the Russians pulled out of Bucha, but it is happening all over Ukraine, these kinds of human rights abuses and war crimes.

The administration, on Sunday, called for an investigation into the war crimes. That is good. Of course, these are war crimes. The United States

must press other countries and must be persistent to ensure that a tribunal is established; that these war crimes are prosecuted; and that people are held accountable.

Last week, Senator DICK DURBIN and I, as coauthors of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, organized a meeting with four members of the Rada, which is the Parliament in Ukraine. We were also joined by the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova. These women told us of the human toll in this fight, which they described as a fight between good and evil, between tyranny and democracy. They talked about the fact that Ukraine can be a symbol for victory of the West if we support them more and if we help them win.

One of the members of Parliament described for us the scenes from Mariupol—of the massive shelling and of the bodies lying in the streets there, too, because it is too dangerous to go out to recover them.

One parliamentarian told us of being separated and of often being out of touch with her husband, who is in harm's way with the Ukrainian military, while she is here telling us these stories to encourage us to do more.

One said that there are 30 Russian soldiers living in her grandmother's house. They forced her out into the bitter cold.

They all told us, with anguish and urgency, of what needs to happen: more sanctions, more military assistance, more equipment.

One of them said—and I thought this was well put—freedom has to be armed. Freedom has to be armed.

I agree. I believe Ukraine can be victorious if the United States and our allies, especially the Europeans, help them to be victorious, and that means helping them more.

They are fighting with heart, and although badly outnumbered, are making progress in key parts of the country. We have seen this in the region around Kyiv, where they are pushing the Russians out. This is the time to redouble our efforts to help ensure victory. It has now been 38 days since Russia's assault began.

Russia is also now trying to redefine their objectives, saying that it was never their intention to seize Kyiv and the other major urban centers. Of course, we know that that is a lie. They tried very hard to seize Kyiv. They just weren't successful because the Ukrainians fought back so valiantly.

So we need to watch the Russians' actions, not their words. Their actions in the south and in the eastern part of the country are that they continue to bomb, bomb, and bomb civilian targets.

The most important reason Ukraine is winning these battles is, of course, the fighting spirit of the men and women of Ukraine—the patriots who are taking the fight to the Russians on the battlefield. They are well trained, and we in the West are part of that.