

facilitating or promoting payments for acts of terrorism.

S. 3336

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3336, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3546, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 3854

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3854, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3904

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3904, a bill to enhance the cybersecurity of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector.

S. 4003

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4003, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for training on alternatives to use of force, de-escalation, and mental and behavioral health and suicidal crises.

S. 4190

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4190, a bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid.

S. CON. RES. 38

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 38, a concurrent resolution declaring a state of emergency due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in order to establish a waiver of the minimum tonnage requirements of section 55305 of title 46, United States Code.

S. CON. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 39, a concurrent resolution honoring the 1,000,000 individuals who have died from COVID-19 in the United States.

S. RES. 547

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 547, a resolution recognizing the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4221. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Equal COLA Act, which I introduced today.

The Federal Government's workforce is central to protecting our national security and delivering critical services to hundreds of millions of Americans. As such, it is essential that the Federal Government attract and retain an effective workforce and, once their service is complete, ensure retirees receive the dignified retirement that they deserve.

Unfortunately, in 1986, Congress created a two-tiered system that now prevents nearly 800,000 retired Federal employees from receiving a full cost-of-living adjustment when consumer prices increase more than 2 percent from year to year.

In January, some Federal retirees received 5.9 percent COLA. However, other Federal retirees received only a 4.9 percent increase due to this policy, which fails to protect retired employees who are living on a fixed income.

That is why I am proud to introduce this legislation to fix this unfair system and ensure that all retired Federal employees receive full retirement benefits that keep up with the cost of living.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill to ensure that retired Federal employees no longer pay the price of a misguided law and that their benefits fully keep pace with the cost of living.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 632—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER VLADIMIR KARAMURZA, WHO WAS UNJUSTLY DETAINED ON APRIL 11, 2022

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 632

Whereas Vladimir Vladimirovich Karamurza (referred to in this preamble as "Mr. Kara-Murza") has tirelessly worked for decades to advance the cause of freedom, democracy, and human rights for the people of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, in retaliation for his advocacy, two attempts have been made on Mr. Karamurza's life, as—

(1) on May 26, 2015, Mr. Kara-Murza fell ill with symptoms indicative of poisoning and was hospitalized; and

(2) on February 2, 2017, he fell ill with similar symptoms and was placed in a medically induced coma;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Karamurza was responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Karamurza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, five police officers arrested Mr. Kara-Murza in front of his home and denied his right to an attorney, and the next day Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 15 days in prison for disobeying a police order;

Whereas, on April 22, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza with violations under the law signed on March 5, 2022, for his fact-based statements condemning the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza was then placed into pretrial detention and ordered to be held until at least June 12, 2022; and

Whereas, if convicted of those charges, Mr. Kara-Murza faces detention in a penitentiary system that human rights nongovernmental organizations have criticized for widespread torture, ill-treatment, and suspicious deaths of prisoners: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the unjust detention and indicting of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, who has courageously stood up to oppression in the Russian Federation;

(2) expresses solidarity with Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals in the Russian Federation imprisoned for exercising their fundamental freedoms of speech, assembly, and belief;

(3) urges the United States Government and other allied governments to work to secure the immediate release of Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine; and

(4) calls on the President to increase support provided by the United States Government for those advocating for democracy and independent media in the Russian Federation, which Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza has worked to advance.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 633—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 1, 2022, AS “SILVER STAR SERVICE BANNER DAY”**

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 633

Whereas the Senate has always honored the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States;

Whereas the Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the people of the United States remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Silver Star Flags for that purpose;

Whereas the sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to evoke memories of the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces and veterans on behalf of the United States through the presence of a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying;

Whereas the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces and veterans on behalf of the United States should never be forgotten; and

Whereas May 1, 2022, is an appropriate date to designate as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 1, 2022, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Silver Star Service Banner Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 634—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM**

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HASSAN,

Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 634

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 30 years ago to—

(1) bring foster care issues to the forefront;

(2) highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 407,000 children living in foster care in the United States;

Whereas there were approximately 216,000 youths that entered the foster care system in 2020 in the United States, while more than 117,000 youths were awaiting adoption at the end of 2020;

Whereas more than 75,000 children entered foster care in 2020 due to parental drug abuse;

Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents, and foster parents provide physical care, emotional support, and education advocacy, and are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas children in foster care who are placed with relatives, compared to children placed with non-relatives—

(1) have more stability, including fewer changes in placements;

(2) have more positive perceptions of their placements;

(3) are more likely to be placed with their siblings; and

(4) demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that enter or re-enter the foster care system;

Whereas the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic created additional challenges for youth and families in the child welfare system, including delays in permanency, economic hardship, and disruptions in education;

Whereas more than 20,000 youths aged out of foster care in 2020 without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas youth who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 21 months;

Whereas 35 percent of children in foster care experience more than 2 placements while in care, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability with a study showing that 75 percent of foster youth experienced an unscheduled school change during a school year, compared to 21 percent of youth not in foster care;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas 30 percent of children in foster care are taking not less than 1 anti-psychotic medication, and 34 percent of those children are not receiving adequate treatment planning or medication monitoring;

Whereas, due to heavy caseloads and limited resources, the average annual turnover rate is between 14 percent and 22 percent for child welfare workers;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and post-permanency programs to ensure that more children and older youth in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 232), which provided new investments in prevention and family reunification services to help more families stay together and ensure more children are in safe, loving, and permanent homes;

Whereas Federal legislation during the past 3 decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272; 94 Stat. 500), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89; 111 Stat. 2115), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351; 122 Stat. 3949), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34; 125 Stat. 369), and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183; 128 Stat. 1919) provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas May 2022 is an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication, accomplishments, and positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2022 as National Foster Care Month;

(2) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster care system;

(3) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in care;