

(1) Black individuals are more than 3 times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause as are white individuals;

(2) American Indian and Alaska Native individuals are more than twice as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause as are white individuals;

(3) Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native individuals with at least some college education are more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than are individuals of all other racial and ethnic backgrounds with less than a high school diploma;

(4) Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native individuals are about twice as likely to suffer from severe maternal morbidity as are white individuals;

(5) individuals who live in rural areas have a greater likelihood of severe maternal morbidity and mortality, compared to individuals who live in urban areas;

(6) less than ½ of rural counties have a hospital with obstetric services;

(7) counties with more Black and Hispanic residents and lower median incomes are less likely to have access to hospital obstetric services;

(8) more than 50 percent of individuals who live in a rural area must travel more than 30 minutes to access hospital obstetric services, compared to 7 percent of individuals who live in urban areas; and

(9) American Indian and Alaska Native individuals living in rural communities are twice as likely as their white counterparts to report receiving late or no prenatal care;

Whereas pregnant individuals may be at increased risk for severe outcomes associated with COVID-19, as—

(1) pregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19 are more likely to be admitted to an intensive care unit, receive invasive ventilation, and receive extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (commonly known as “ECMO”) treatment, compared to nonpregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19;

(2) pregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19 are at a 70-percent increased risk for death, compared to nonpregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19; and

(3) pregnant individuals with COVID-19 are at risk for pre-term delivery and stillbirth;

Whereas 49 States have designated committees to review maternal deaths;

Whereas State and local maternal mortality review committees are positioned to comprehensively assess maternal deaths and identify opportunities for prevention;

Whereas 43 States are participating in the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, which promotes consistent and safe maternity care to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality;

Whereas community-based maternal health care models, including midwifery childbirth services, doula support services, community and perinatal health worker services, and group prenatal care, in collaboration with culturally competent physician care, show great promise in improving maternal health outcomes and reducing disparities in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas many organizations have implemented initiatives to educate patients and providers about—

(1) all causes of, contributing factors to, and disparities in maternal mortality;

(2) the prevention of pregnancy-related deaths; and

(3) the importance of listening to and empowering all people to report pregnancy-related medical issues; and

Whereas several States, communities, and organizations recognize January 23 as “Maternal Health Awareness Day” to raise awareness about maternal health and promote maternal safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 23, 2022, as “Maternal Health Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Maternal Health Awareness Day, including—

(A) raising public awareness about maternal mortality, maternal morbidity, and disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) encouraging the Federal Government, States, territories, Tribes, local communities, public health organizations, physicians, health care providers, and others to take action to reduce adverse maternal health outcomes and improve maternal safety;

(3) promotes initiatives—

(A) to address and eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) to ensure respectful and equitable maternity care practices;

(4) honors those who have passed away as a result of pregnancy-related causes; and

(5) supports and recognizes the need for further investments in efforts to improve maternal health, eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes, and promote respectful and equitable maternity care practices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 493—RECOGNIZING THE NECESSITY OF SCHOOL CHOICE AS A TOOL TO EMPOWER ALL PARENTS WITH THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE THE BEST EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THEIR CHILDREN AND TO COMBAT DESTRUCTIVE IDEOLOGIES LIKE CRITICAL RACE THEORY PROMOTED BY MANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Whereas the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides every American with equal protection under the law;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects Americans against compelled speech;

Whereas the idea that any race, ethnicity, color, or national origin is inherently superior or inferior should not be forced into any required curriculum;

Whereas teaching students that they are guilty or victimized based on the color of their skin is inherently discriminatory and anti-American;

Whereas parents should have the ability to choose a school for their child based on their child's individual needs, academic goals, and personal and religious beliefs;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic caused schools across the country to close for a significant amount of time, creating a loss in learning progress and social and emotional skills for many students;

Whereas COVID-19-related school closures and policy changes should ensure that the individualized educational plans for students with special needs and disabilities are met;

Whereas parents are seeking more options for their child's schooling due to learning loss, mask mandates, and COVID-19 vaccine mandates that many States and schools are imposing;

Whereas school choice is more important than ever to ensure that children can attend the school that works best for them and in

light of the threats imposed by Critical Race Theory and overreaching mandates regarding COVID-19;

Whereas it is documented that certain school boards are actively silencing the voices of concerned parents and impeding their ability to have a say in their children's education; and

Whereas Attorney General Merrick Garland has abused his office by directing Federal law enforcement to engage in local issues, thus threatening legitimately concerned parents away from advocating for their children's right to a quality and unbiased education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and promotes the importance of parental involvement in their child's education; and

(2) recognizes the necessity of school choice as a tool to empower all parents with the freedom to choose the best educational environment for their children and to reject the destructive ideologies promoted by many public schools, such as Critical Race Theory.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4908. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4909. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4908 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4910. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4911. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4910 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4912. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4911 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4910 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4913. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4914. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4913 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4915. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4916. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4915 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4917. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4916 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4915 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5746, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4908. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 2 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4909. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4908 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “2” and insert “3”.

SA 4910. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 6 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4911. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4910 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “6” and insert “7”.

SA 4912. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4911 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4910 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “7” and insert “8”.

SA 4913. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property

of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4914. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4913 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “7 days” and insert “8 days”.

SA 4915. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. ____ EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 9 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4916. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4915 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike “9” and insert “10”.

SA 4917. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4916 submitted by Mr. MCCONNELL and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 4915 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5746, to amend title 51, United States Code, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “10” and insert “11”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I have 2 requests 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 2 p.m., to conduct closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff: John Wright Picard, an intern.

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

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, as if in executive session that the nomination of Arun Venkataraman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service received in the Senate on January 4, 2022, be jointly referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: Frank Miller of Pennsylvania.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 20; that following the prayer and the 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 the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for the information of Senators, we expect a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Thomas nomination at 12 noon.