

(2) in Colombia, where 33 environmental and land defenders were murdered during 2021, representing the second highest number of such murders in any country that year;

(3) in Brazil, where 342 environmental and land defenders have been murdered since 2012, representing the highest number of such murders of any country since the reporting of such murders began; and

(4) in Peru, Venezuela, and Brazil, where 78 percent of the attacks against environmental and land defenders in the Amazon region occurred;

Whereas more than 25 percent of the attacks on environmental and land defenders during 2021 were reportedly linked to resource exploitation, including logging, mining, large scale agribusiness, hydroelectric dams, and other infrastructure;

Whereas, approximately 40 to 60 percent of logging activities in the Peruvian Amazon are illegal, according to INTERPOL, and approximately 95 percent of deforestation in Brazil in 2021 was irregular, according to the Brazilian Annual Land Use and Land Cover Mapping Project;

Whereas, in 2021, Indigenous peoples made up more than 40 percent of victims in fatal attacks against environmental and land defenders worldwide, despite Indigenous peoples only comprising approximately 5 percent of the world's population;

Whereas Indigenous peoples, who steward more than 80 percent of the world's biodiversity, are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of environmental loss and more frequently targeted in attacks on environmental and land defenders;

Whereas women acting in defense of their lands and natural environments in Latin America face additional threats to their human rights, as Latin America has the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world;

Whereas many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean lack sufficient oversight capacity, transparency, and accountability for regulations of environmental permits and investigations of environmental crimes, especially in Indigenous lands, nationally protected forests, and other remote geographical areas with limited government presence, forcing affected populations to advocate for their land and natural resources at great personal risk;

Whereas corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean enables the subversion of laws designed to prevent environmental crime and protect natural resources, undermining efforts to prevent ecological destruction;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has strained the resources and institutional capacity of Latin American and Caribbean governments to address environmental crimes and prevent the expansion of nonstate actors into remote areas and border regions where these groups target environmental and land defenders and engage in illicit mining and drug trafficking activities;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development has developed programs to reduce environmental crimes and other threats to the Amazon's forests, waters, and peoples throughout Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname;

Whereas all Latin American and Caribbean countries have ratified the decision by the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted at Paris December 12, 2015 (commonly known as the "Paris Climate Agreement"), which states, "Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children,

persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations";

Whereas 15 countries in Latin America ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labor Organization, establishing the rights of Indigenous people to land, natural resources, and prior consultation on projects affecting their communities, although many such countries have consistently failed to respect these legally binding standards;

Whereas 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have signed, and 14 of these 25 countries have ratified, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at Escazú, Costa Rica March 4, 2018 (commonly known as the "Escazú Agreement"), to ensure the protection of environmental defenders across the region; and

Whereas, on June 9, 2022, at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, heads of state and government of the Western Hemisphere adopted "Our Sustainable Green Future", a commitment to draft and approve national plans, before the commencement of the Tenth Summit of the Americas in the Dominican Republic in 2025—

(1) to respond to threats and attacks on environmental defenders and collect data on such threats and attacks, in accordance with domestic law;

(2) to enact, as appropriate, and enforce domestic laws to protect environmental defenders and the resources they defend; and

(3) to carry out and implement environmental assessments in accordance with existing domestic law: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) underscores the urgency of protecting biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean, ending impunity for environmental crimes, protecting environmental and land defenders, and confronting risks and addressing threats to such actors;

(2) urges governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, including—

(A) strengthening efforts and initiatives aimed at combating environmental crimes and protecting the territory of environmental and land defenders;

(B) complying with commitments made under the Paris Climate Agreement, Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization, and the Escazú Agreement to pursue environmental justice and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, particularly in relation to rights to land titling and prior consultation; and

(C) implementing "Our Sustainable Green Future" commitments made at the Ninth Summit of the Americas to advance the protection of environmental and land defenders;

(3) calls on the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to support and assist governments in Latin America and the Caribbean in meeting regional and international standards and commitments for the protection of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, including through—

(A) capacity building initiatives aimed at strengthening networks of environmental and land defenders, Indigenous peoples, and civil society organizations;

(B) providing technical assistance and other support to combat corruption within agencies dealing with forestry management and environmental crimes;

(C) collaborating with law enforcement authorities, including through the sharing of

intelligence, to help dismantle criminal groups responsible for committing environmental crime and violence against environmental and land defenders;

(D) reinforcing the importance of free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples within such regional and international commitments;

(E) promoting the participation of women, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, environmental and land defenders, and other affected and vulnerable communities in regional and international forums related to human rights, environmental protection, and climate change; and

(F) hosting summits and other multilateral forums, with the participation of governments in the region and relevant civil society organizations, to share the experiences of environmental and land defenders and advance solutions to protect biodiversity and confront impunity around environmental crime; and

(4) calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to develop comprehensive regional and subregional action plans with input from environmental and land defenders to counter environmental crime and attacks against environmental and land defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean, including by—

(A) strengthening current programs in Brazil and Colombia;

(B) expanding key pillars of ongoing programs to Mexico, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, where such initiatives are largely absent; and

(C) ensuring that projects supported or funded by the United States Government in Latin America and the Caribbean take into account the protection of Indigenous peoples and environmental and land defenders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 3 THROUGH APRIL 7, 2023, AS NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 143

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this preamble as "NASSP"), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 3 through April 7, 2023, as "National Assistant Principals Week";

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as to supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas, since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program has recognized outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 3 through April 7, 2023, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Assistant Principals Week;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—RECOGNIZING THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A TRANSGENDER BILL OF RIGHTS TO PROTECT AND CODIFY THE RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY PEOPLE UNDER THE LAW AND ENSURE THEIR ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE, SHELTER, SAFETY, AND ECONOMIC SAFETY

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 144

Whereas an estimated 1,600,000 transgender adults live in the United States;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) requires equal treatment under the law regardless of sex;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020), that Federal protection against discrimination on the basis of sex includes protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas despite these protections, transgender people still experience discrimination in—

- (1) medical care;
- (2) employment;
- (3) housing;
- (4) education;
- (5) lending; and
- (6) other basic necessities;

Whereas State lawmakers introduced more than 300 bills attacking the rights of LGBTQI+ people, and transgender people in particular, in the first 6 weeks of 2023;

Whereas the right of transgender and nonbinary people to seek lifesaving gender-affirming care is under threat across the United States;

Whereas the provision of best-practice, age-appropriate, gender-affirming health care is endorsed by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, the American Counseling Association, the American Heart Association, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the Endocrine Society, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the World Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health;

Whereas transgender and nonbinary people—

(1) face significant barriers to legal recognition of their true selves on government documentation and identification;

(2) experience disproportionately high rates of poverty, homelessness, violence, and suicide; and

(3) detained in jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers are especially vulnerable to violence and abuse and are often deprived of gender-affirming resources and health care;

Whereas transgender and nonbinary people—

(1) make unique, valuable contributions to American society and culture worth honoring and celebrating;

(2) have existed throughout history across the globe, demonstrating resilience, bravery, and authenticity; and

(3) are parents, siblings, children, chosen family, and friends deserving of human dignity and support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Government has a duty to protect the rights of transgender and nonbinary people by implementing a “Transgender Bill of Rights” that includes—

(A) ensuring transgender and nonbinary people have equal access to services and public accommodations that align with their gender identity by—

(i) amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, including gender identity and sex characteristics, in public accommodations and federally funded programs and activities;

(ii) expanding the definition of public accommodation to address the full range of places and services that members of the general public utilize;

(iii) explicitly clarifying that it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of sex, including gender identity or sex characteristics, in public accommodations and services on religious grounds; and

(iv) amending Federal education laws to ensure that those laws protect students from discrimination based on sex, including gender identity and sex characteristics, and guarantee the rights of students to—

(I) participate in sports on teams and in programs that best align with their gender identity;

(II) use school facilities that best align with their gender identity;

(III) have their authentic identity respected in the classroom; and

(IV) have access to curriculum and books that accurately portray the substantive history and identity of LGBTQI+ people and Black, Indigenous, and people of color;

(B) recognizing the right to bodily autonomy and ethical health care for transgender and nonbinary people by—

(i) strengthening, implementing, and enforcing prohibitions on discrimination in the provision of health care on the basis of sex, including on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity or sex characteristics;

(ii) eliminating unnecessary governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, gender-affirming medical care and counseling for transgender and nonbinary adults and youth;

(iii) ensuring that health care providers following standards of care for transgender and nonbinary people are not targeted for criminal or civil penalties, or for professional discipline;

(iv) protecting children from forceful removal from supportive homes;

(v) protecting providers of gender-affirming care, reproductive health care, and abortion health care from threats and acts of violence related to their work;

(vi) expanding access to competent health care providers serving transgender and nonbinary patients, including by recruiting and training more health care providers to provide appropriate care;

(vii) expanding telehealth access to provide patients in rural and other underserved locations better access to health care services;

(viii) codifying *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), guaranteeing the right to abortion, and codifying the right to reproductive health care such as contraceptives and assistive reproductive technology for everyone, including transgender and nonbinary people; and

(ix) banning the use of forced surgery that violates medical ethics and human rights on intersex children and infants;

(C) ensuring transgender and nonbinary people can care for themselves and their families by fully codifying the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020) by—

(i) eliminating hiring and employment discrimination and workforce exclusion by amending title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) to explicitly clarify that employers may not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity or sex characteristics;

(ii) amending the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) to explicitly clarify that it prohibits all forms of sex discrimination, including on the basis of gender identity or sex characteristics; and

(iii) amending the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) to explicitly clarify that it prohibits all forms of sex discrimination, including on the basis of gender identity or sex characteristics;

(D) providing accessible avenues for legal recognition of transgender and nonbinary identities and guaranteeing full participation in civil life by—

(i) eliminating Federal gender identification requirements on government documents that are unnecessary to determine the identity of the holder or are otherwise irrelevant to the purpose of the document;

(ii) eliminating burdensome barriers to updating sex and names on passports, Social Security cards, and other forms of Federal Government identification and records, permitting, where possible, changes on self-attestation alone;

(iii) requiring that an “X” marker be available on Federal Government identification and records that still require gender;