

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to enhance mental health and psychosocial support within United States development and humanitarian assistance programs.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to reform the labor laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1271, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels, and for other purposes.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1311, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 15, a joint reso-

lution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to "Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414".

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States".

S. RES. 113

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 113, a resolution recognizing the need for greater access to rural and agricultural media programming.

S. RES. 157

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 157, a resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 174

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 174, a resolution condemning the human rights record of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and the brutal killing of Eswatini activist Thulani Maseko on January 21, 2023.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1337. A bill to temporarily prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until a certain level of taxpayer services have improved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1337

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Increase Reliable Services Now Act".

#### SEC. 2. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL TAX ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person for the purpose of conducting enforcement activities

during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which—

(1) the Internal Revenue Service has maintained, for 6 consecutive months—

(A) a level of access for accounts management phone lines of not less than 90 percent; and

(B) an average speed of answering enterprise-wide calls in 4 minutes or less; and

(2) not less than 90 percent of the regular employees of the Internal Revenue Service perform work in person at their job sites.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The term "enforcement activities" means activities described in section 10301(a)(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169.

(2) LEVEL OF ACCESS.—The term "level of access" means a telephone performance measure that reflects overall taxpayer call demand and Internal Revenue Service assistance and is calculated by dividing—

(A) the sum of assistant calls answered and the automated calls answered; by

(B) the total dialed number attempts (not including any dialed number attempts after hours).

#### SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF ADDITIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FUNDS FOR TAXPAYER AUDITS.

Section 10301(a)(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "Provided further, That the Internal Revenue Service shall not audit taxpayers with taxable incomes below \$400,000 at a greater rate than such taxpayers were audited for the most recent taxable year beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act".

#### SEC. 4. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE HIRING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person (other than for activities related to return processing and call center operations) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which the Internal Revenue Service meets the requirements of subsection (b).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) With respect to the completion of processing original and amended tax returns, the completion of processing suspended tax returns, and the resolution of accounts management cases, the Internal Revenue Service has an aggregate inventory not in excess of 5,000,000 items as of the close of any calendar quarter.

(2) With respect to tax returns eligible for a refund, refunds are issued to taxpayers on average within six weeks or less of the receipt of the return.

#### SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days after the last day of each calendar quarter beginning during the applicable period, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in consultation with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees report on—

(1) the level of access for accounts management phone lines for each month during such calendar quarter;

(2) the average speed of answering enterprise-wide calls for each month during such calendar quarter;

(3) the percentage of regular employees of the Internal Revenue Service that perform work in person at their job sites during such calendar quarter;

(4) the aggregate inventory of unprocessed original and amended tax returns, unprocessed suspended tax returns, and unresolved

accounts management cases as of the last day of the calendar quarter; and

(5) with respect to tax returns eligible for a refund, the average length of time between receipt of a tax return and the issuance of a refund.

(b) **APPLICABLE PERIOD.**—For purposes of this section, the term “applicable period” means the period beginning with the first calendar quarter beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending with the first calendar quarter in which the Internal Revenue Service—

(1) has met the requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(a); and

(2) has met the requirements of section 4(b).

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—For purposes of this section, the term “appropriate Congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1341. A bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Madam President, it is time for a national investment in building a strong and resilient educator pipeline to ensure that all schools have the diverse, profession-ready teachers, principals, librarians, counselors, and other specialized instructional support personnel they need to support student development and academic achievement. Today, along with Senators CASEY, LUJÁN, VAN HOLLEN, WYDEN, STABENOW, MERKLEY, and HEINRICH, I am reintroducing the EDUCATORS for America Act to provide the blueprint for building this pipeline. I am pleased that Representative ALMA ADAMS is introducing a companion bill in the other body.

For years, we have seen declines in enrollment in educator preparation programs. Now in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools are facing pervasive staffing shortages. An Education Week survey found that 40 percent of school district leaders and principals describe the shortages as “severe” or “very severe.” The National Association of Secondary School Principals reported that nearly 4 out of 10 principals expect to leave the profession in the next 3 years. We cannot afford to neglect the educator pipeline any longer.

As we work to replenish the ranks of our educators, we also have the opportunity to advance diversity in the profession. Multiple studies have shown that racial diversity can provide significant benefits to students. However, the gap between the demographic makeup of the student body and the

education profession has been widening. Even though over 50 percent of students are people of color, a 2022 Department of Education report showed that 80 percent of public-school teachers identified as White, a figure that has barely changed since 2000.

The EDUCATORS for America Act calls for a \$1 billion annual investment in the educator pipeline, divided evenly between State capacity building and direct support for educator preparation programs and partnerships with high-need school districts. It addresses the full scope of educator workforce development, including early outreach and career exploration, financial assistance, and wraparound supports for those pursuing education careers. It supports clinical preparation for teachers, principals, and other educators, as well as fostering faculty development, all with a focus on ensuring equity and diversity.

The EDUCATORS for America Act will also reduce financial barriers to pursuing careers in education. The legislation will double the value of the TEACH—Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education—grant to \$8,000 per year and provide greater flexibility for meeting service requirements. It forgives loans for teachers, principals, and early childhood educators in high need schools after 5 years of service, and it establishes a new monthly credit for all other educators that will allow them to earn loan forgiveness as they serve instead of being forced to wait a decade before receiving any benefit.

The EDUCATORS for America Act reflects input from stakeholders across the field about what is needed to recruit, prepare, and support educators. To date, more than 50 organizations have endorsed it.

The Nation’s outlook for the future is tied to the strength of the education profession. Our economic prosperity, the health of our democracy and civic society, and our ability to meet the challenges of climate change and the information age depend on our students having access to well-prepared and supported educators who reflect the diversity of the students they serve.

Today, the profession is in crisis. It is time to act. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the EDUCATORS for America Act and work with me to see that it is enacted into law.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1343. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to alter the definition of “conviction”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Fair Adjudications for Immigrants Act.

This legislation would ensure that immigrants with criminal convictions do not face barriers to naturalization and experience unfair removals after their convictions have been dismissed, expunged, or pardoned by a Federal or State locality.

The Fair Adjudications for Immigrants Act is important in ensuring immigrants are not unjustly treated after receiving a criminal charge that never resulted in a conviction or after a previous conviction no longer stands.

Specifically, this bill would ensure that immigrants whose convictions have been overturned are not penalized when they are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction or for sentences that have been fully suspended by the sentencing court.

By redefining the term “conviction” in the Immigration and Nationality Act, this legislation also clarifies that any adjudication that is appealable or in which the court has issued a judicial recommendation against removal or probation without judgment will not count as a conviction.

The bill would apply retroactively to any conviction, adjudication, or judgment entered before, on, or after the enactment of this bill. Finally, it establishes that an immigrant cannot be removed on the basis of a conviction if the sentencing court issues a recommendation against removal to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Under current law, rather than having access to many rehabilitative measures that are afforded in the criminal justice system, immigrants with dismissed criminal charges, suspended sentences, or criminal convictions that are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction still face severe consequences in the immigration court system.

Some of the immigration consequences that immigrants can face include unjust removals, mandatory detention, and barriers to naturalization.

It is imperative that we resolve this disparity between immigration and criminal law to prevent those immigrants with dismissed criminal charges or with convictions that are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction from continuing to face punitive immigration consequences.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1353. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1353

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2023”.

**SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY.**

Section 455(m)(3)(B)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “teaching as” and inserting the following: “teaching—

“(I) as”;

(2) by striking “, foreign language faculty, and part-time faculty at community colleges, as determined by the Secretary.” and inserting “and foreign language faculty), as determined by the Secretary; or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)), a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c)), or a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)), in non-tenured track employment as an adjunct or contingent faculty, teacher, or lecturer who—

“(aa) teaches—

“(AA) not less than 9 credit hours per semester, 6 credit hours per trimester, or 18 credit hours per calendar year; or

“(BB) not less than a total of 30 hours per week, as determined by multiplying each credit or contact hour taught per week by 3.35 (or a larger number, if determined appropriate by the Secretary); and

“(bb) is not employed on a full-time basis by any other employer.”.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS****SENATE RESOLUTION 179—CONDEMNING THE WRONGFUL DETAINMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 179

Whereas the Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees the right to assemble, freedom from censorship, and the freedom of speech and thought to its citizens;

Whereas, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation has failed to protect these ideals and has used the power of the state to diminish the rights of Russians and others within its borders and across the territories Russia unlawfully occupies;

Whereas President Putin’s regime has used the power of the state to unlawfully detain individuals committed to fighting corruption within the Russian Federation;

Whereas President Putin’s regime has unjustly targeted and detained individuals such as Sergei Magnitsky, who provided evidence that \$230,000,000 had been stolen from the Russian treasury by senior Russian officials;

Whereas Sergei Magnitsky died at the age of 37 after being denied critical medical care while being unjustly detained in inhuman conditions;

Whereas President Putin’s regime also utilizes the power of the state to target political opponents and repress freedom of speech, thought, and expression;

Whereas Alexey Navalny, a Russian opposition leader and vocal critic of President Putin, has been unjustly detained and subject to poisoning by the Kremlin;

Whereas the Putin regime has also used its power to unjustly detain citizens of the United States;

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is currently serving a 16-year prison sentence after being wrongfully detained by the Russian Federation for espionage;

Whereas, following Paul Whelan’s conviction on June 15, 2020, the Department of State released a statement demanding his immediate release, and this statement continues to be ignored by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on April 12, 2022, United States resident Vladimir Kara-Murza was arrested for condemning Russia’s war in Ukraine and was charged with “spreading deliberately false information” about the armed forces of Russia, which was criminalized under a Russian law passed after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Vladimir Kara-Murza was convicted of treason and sentenced to 25 years in prison;

Whereas additional United States citizens continue to be detained in Russia for unjust cause, including American journalist Evan Gershkovich;

Whereas wrongful detention, as defined in section 302 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741) and Department of State guidance, covers the detention of United States nationals, including lawful permanent residents (LPRs);

Whereas, under section 302 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741), the Secretary of State is required to review the cases of United States nationals detained abroad to determine if there is credible information that they are being detained unlawfully or wrongfully and if this determination is made, the Secretary is required to transfer responsibility for such case from the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State to the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA);

Whereas a referral to SPEHA, pursuant to Executive Order No. 14078 (relating to Bolstering Efforts To Bring Hostages and Wrongfully Detained United States Nationals Home), allows SPEHA to utilize additional tools not regularly available in order to deter and disrupt hostage-taking and wrongful detentions by imposing costs on terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and other malicious actors who take hostages for financial, political, or other gains and thus threaten the integrity of the international political system and the safety of United States nationals and other persons abroad;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation Lynne Tracy stated, “The right to have political opinions, or to disagree with the decisions of one’s own government, are fundamental freedoms enshrined in both the Russian constitution and international treaties to which Russia is a party.”;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of President Putin, has clearly failed to uphold the values guaranteed in the Russian constitution and the international treaties the Russian Federation is party to;

Whereas the actions of President Putin’s regime, including illegal detentions, military operations against sovereign nation states, and attacks on political opponents, constitute acts of international terrorism;

Whereas, under chapter 113B of title 18, United States Code, the term “international terrorism” means activities that involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that

would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State, and appear to be intended—

(1) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

(2) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

(3) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping;

Whereas, at a minimum, the Government of the Russian Federation’s treatment of detained Americans, Russian citizens, and others through inhuman prison conditions, including the lack of medical care, and the lack of due process constitutes a danger to human life which would be a criminal violation in the United States and is clearly intended to intimidate or coerce the free exercise of rights available to individuals in the Russian Federation; and

Whereas United States law authorizes the designation of countries that have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism as state sponsors of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the United States Government to designate Vladimir Kara-Murza as wrongfully detained under United States law;

(2) condemns the wrongful detainment of all United States citizens and residents by the Government of the Russian Federation and demands their immediate release from such detention;

(3) stands with the people of Russia in their desire to exercise freedom of speech and expression, without retaliation by an oppressive regime;

(4) demands that the Russian leadership be held accountable for their inhumane and unjust actions against their own citizens who want nothing less than to be represented by a fair and just government; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to immediately designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism under United States law.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 180—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 30, 2023, AS “NATIONAL ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION AWARENESS DAY”**

Ms. HIRONO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 180

Whereas up to 2,400,000 individuals in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and up to ⅓ of individuals with chronic hepatitis B are unaware of their infection;

Whereas hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver transmitted via infected blood and other bodily fluids, including through mother-to-child transmission and injection drug use;

Whereas hepatitis B is associated with significant disparities among communities of color (including Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and African immigrants), sexual and gender minority communities, and those affected by the opioid crisis;

Whereas individuals with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, and chronic liver disease, and individuals on hemodialysis are at an increased risk for hepatitis B co-infection;

Whereas there is no cure for hepatitis B, and individuals with chronic hepatitis B require lifelong medical care;