

(5) teams worked tirelessly around the clock to rescue survivors and recover the remains of individuals killed in the tragic collapse; and

(6) on June 30, 2021, the National Institute of Standards and Technology announced it would launch a formal investigation into the cause of the collapse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the passage of 2 years since the tragic building collapse in Surfside, Florida, on June 24, 2021;

(2) honors the survivors and the 98 lives lost in the collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium building and offers heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(3) commends the bravery and selfless service demonstrated by the local, State, national, and international teams of first responders deployed in the aftermath of the collapse; and

(4) expresses support for the survivors and community of Surfside, Florida.

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—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. KAINE, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LUJAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:.

S. RES. 280

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 391,100 children living in foster care in the United States;

Whereas there were approximately 206,800 youths that entered the foster care system in 2021 in the United States, while more than 113,500 youths were awaiting adoption at the end of 2021;

Whereas almost 74,000 children entered foster care in 2021 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 more than 19,000 youths aged out of foster care in 2021 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 2023 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 2023 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;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system;

(8) supports the designation of May 31, 2023, as National Foster Parent Appreciation Day;

(9) recognizes National Foster Parent Appreciation Day as an opportunity to recognize the efforts of foster parents to provide safe and loving care for children in need and raise awareness about the increasing need for foster parents to serve in their communities; and

(10) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed to—

(A) support vulnerable families;

(B) invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) adequately serve those children brought into the foster care system; and

(E) facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for youth that “age out” of the foster care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 281—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 18 THROUGH JUNE 24, 2023, AS “NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER SAFETY WEEK” IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER SAFETY WEEK TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE FIRE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROPER DISPOSAL OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 281

Whereas firefighters play a critical role in safeguarding lives and property;

Whereas the safety and well-being of firefighters are of the utmost importance and it is crucial to equip them with the necessary knowledge and resources to perform their duties effectively;

Whereas the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the Fire Department Safety Officers Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the National Fire Protection Association are the leading organizations committed to enhancing firefighter safety and promoting best practices;

Whereas lithium-ion batteries have become increasingly prevalent in modern society and are utilized in a wide range of consumer products, posing unique risks when involved in incidents and fires;

Whereas the improper recycling or disposal of lithium-ion batteries causes fires, endangering the firefighters called upon to quell these blazes;

Whereas programs, such as the assistance to firefighters grant program under section 33(c) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(c)) and the staffing for adequate fire and emergency response grant program under section 34 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2229a), support initiatives aimed at enhancing firefighter safety, including training programs, research, and the development of specialized equipment and tools; and

Whereas, during National Firefighter Safety Week, from June 18 through June 24, 2023, leading firefighter safety organizations are conducting a Safety Stand Down to raise awareness among firefighters about the potential hazards associated with lithium-ion battery incidents and to provide comprehensive training on response protocols and safety measures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Firefighter Safety Week;

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the efforts of firefighter safety organizations to promote firefighter safety relating to lithium-ion battery incidents;

(B) training programs to educate firefighters about the risks and hazards associated with lithium-ion battery incidents; and

(C) participation of fire departments in the United States in National Firefighter Safety Week;

(3) encourages—

(A) efforts to develop standards and best practices that emphasize firefighter safety in dealing with lithium-ion battery incidents; and

(B) public awareness regarding the safe use, safe storage, and proper disposal or recycling of lithium-ion batteries;

(4) supports community outreach programs that educate the public about the potential hazards and proper response to lithium-ion battery incidents; and

(5) supports the goals of National Firefighter Safety Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 282—RECOGNIZING JUNE 2023 AS “LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHA-

HEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 282

Whereas individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as “LGBTQ”) include individuals—

(1) from all States, territories, and the District of Columbia; and

(2) from all faiths, races, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, disability statuses, education levels, and political beliefs;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to the United States and to the world in every aspect, including in the fields of education, law, health, business, science, research, economic development, architecture, fashion, sports, government, music, film, politics, technology, literature, and civil rights;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States served on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic as doctors, nurses, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders in all States, territories, and the District of Columbia, and continue to serve on the front lines today;

Whereas the persistent failure of Federal and State officials to collect full and accurate data on sexual orientation and gender identity causes tremendous harm to LGBTQ individuals in the United States, who remain largely invisible to the government entities entrusted with ensuring their health, safety, and well-being;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States serve, and have served, in the United States Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Marines honorably and with distinction and bravery;

Whereas a decades-long Federal policy, known as the “Lavender Scare”, threatened and intimidated Federal public servants from employment due to their sexual orientation by alleging LGBTQ individuals posed a threat to national security, preventing many more from entering the workforce;

Whereas an estimated number of more than 100,000 brave service members were discharged from the Armed Forces between the beginning of World War II and 2011 because of their sexual orientation, including the discharge of more than 13,000 service members under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy that was in place between 1994 and 2011;

Whereas transgender people were banned from military service from at least 1960, and were not permitted to serve without restriction until 2021;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States serve, and have served, in positions in the Federal Government and State and local governments, including as members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, mayors, and city council members;

Whereas the demonstrators who protested on June 28, 1969, following a law enforcement raid of the Stonewall Inn, a LGBTQ club in New York City, are pioneers of the LGBTQ movement for equality;

Whereas, throughout much of the history of the United States, same-sex relationships were criminalized in many States, and many

LGBTQ individuals in the United States were forced to hide their LGBTQ identities while living in secrecy and fear;

Whereas, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and acknowledged that “[n]o union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family”;

Whereas Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (referred to in this preamble as “AIDS”) has disproportionately impacted LGBTQ individuals in the United States, due in part to a lack of funding and research devoted to finding effective treatments for AIDS and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (referred to in this preamble as “HIV”) during the early stages of the HIV and AIDS epidemic;

Whereas gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color have a higher risk of contracting HIV;

Whereas people living with HIV continue to face discrimination in the United States and, in certain States, may be subject to greater criminal punishment than individuals without HIV;

Whereas the LGBTQ community maintains its unwavering commitment to ending the HIV and AIDS epidemic;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many other areas central to the pursuit of happiness in the United States;

Whereas 28 States have no explicit ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, housing, or public accommodations, and 34 States have no explicit ban on discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in education;

Whereas, as a result of discrimination, LGBTQ youth are at increased risk of—

(1) suicide;

(2) homelessness;

(3) becoming victims of bullying, violence, or human trafficking; and

(4) developing mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression;

Whereas only 13 States and the District of Columbia have explicit policies in place to protect foster youth from discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas LGBTQ youth of color are overrepresented in child welfare and juvenile justice systems;

Whereas the LGBTQ community has faced discrimination, inequality, and violence throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas State legislatures across the country have introduced and passed harmful legislation specifically targeting LGBTQ youth, particularly transgender youth, and their ability to obtain access to healthcare, participate in athletic activities, and learn about race, gender, and sexuality in schools;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States, in particular transgender individuals, face a disproportionately high risk of becoming victims of violent hate crimes;

Whereas members of the LGBTQ community have been targeted in acts of mass violence, including—

(1) the Club Q nightclub shooting in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on November 19, 2022, where 5 people were killed and 25 people were wounded;

(2) the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, where 49 people were killed and 53 people were wounded; and

(3) the arson attack at the UpStairs Lounge in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 24, 1973, where 32 people died;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals face persecution, violence, and death in many parts of