

celebration of the 50th anniversary of hip hop.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 306—RECOGNIZING THAT THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO SUPPORT AND EMPOWER MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE BY INVESTING IN THE MOM ECONOMY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 306

Whereas mothers are an essential part of the workforce and economy of the United States;

Whereas 2,500,000 women left the workforce in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, as compared to 1,800,000 men, largely as a result of the burdens of childcare, work, and remote learning;

Whereas maternal employment fell by 15.7 percent as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as compared to paternal employment, which fell by 9.6 percent in the same time period;

Whereas at least ¼ of women report having experienced gender discrimination at work;

Whereas, on average, women are paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to men;

Whereas Black women, Latinas, Native women, and many communities of Asian-American and Pacific-Islander women experience higher poverty rates and higher wage gaps compared to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas women occupy close to ¾ of jobs that pay the Federal minimum wage or just a few dollars above it;

Whereas even 1 percent of mothers leaving the workforce would result in an estimated \$8,700,000,000 economic fallout for families;

Whereas strong investments in childcare are essential for the full employment of women, and the gross domestic product of the United States would increase by 10 to 15 basis points with such investments;

Whereas ½ of the families in the United States with children under the age of 18 years have a mother who contributes at least 40 percent of household earnings;

Whereas mothers of color play a vital role in the financial stability of their families, with 79 percent of Black mothers, 64 percent of Native American mothers, 49 percent of Latina mothers, and 43 percent of Asian-American and Pacific-Islander mothers serving as breadwinners;

Whereas, in addition to the economic security that mothers provide for their families, mothers are more than 3 times as likely as fathers to be responsible for most of the housework and caregiving in their households;

Whereas, in addition to caregiving for children, mothers disproportionately shoulder unpaid caregiving responsibilities for older relatives and other family members with disabilities;

Whereas women are twice as likely as men to say that taking time off had a negative impact on their professional development;

Whereas industries dominated by women disproportionately fail to provide family-friendly workplace benefits such as paid family and medical leave, health insurance, and retirement plans;

Whereas 44 percent of workers are not eligible for unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.);

Whereas 3 of 10 women without access to paid leave exit the workforce after giving birth;

Whereas paid leave policies can reduce the number of women leaving their jobs by 20 percent during the first year after welcoming a child and up to 50 percent after 5 years;

Whereas mothers sometimes find childcare costs are almost as much as their paychecks, creating a financial incentive for mothers to leave the workforce in exchange for childcare duties;

Whereas 40 percent of parents have gone into debt due to the high costs of childcare;

Whereas the childcare crisis costs the United States \$122,000,000,000 each year, including \$78,000,000,000 in lost earnings and job search expenses, \$23,000,000,000 in lost workforce productivity, and \$21,000,000,000 in lost tax revenue;

Whereas a significant investment in childcare is simultaneously job creating and job enabling, creating good jobs and supporting parental employment;

Whereas, by encouraging women to remain in the workforce full time, access to paid leave and childcare significantly boosts mothers' lifetime earning potential;

Whereas the 2021 temporary expansion of the child tax credit lifted 3,700,000 children out of poverty;

Whereas families used the child tax credit to cover routine expenses, improve nutrition, decrease reliance on credit cards and other high-risk financial services, and make long-term educational investments; and

Whereas families of color saw the largest quality of life improvements due to the expansion of the child tax credit in 2021: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States needs to prioritize a Mom Economy that invests in the caregiving infrastructure required to adequately support and empower mothers in the workforce and sustain a thriving economy;

(2) mothers, especially mothers of color, face systemic economic and social inequalities that restrict their ability to balance parenting responsibilities with workplace roles and limit their professional advancement;

(3) mothers play an integral role not only in the financial well-being of their families but in the productivity of the American economy as a whole;

(4) the United States should invest in its mothers by expanding and developing the social safety net in order to secure meaningful and sustainable economic growth, including—

(A) robust paid family and medical leave plans for all workers, including—

(i) paid parental leave following the birth of a child or the placement of a child for adoption or foster care, provided in equal amounts for all parents regardless of gender; and

(ii) paid leave policies that can be used for family caregiving and workers' own medical leave;

(B) paid menstrual leave and remote work accommodations for workers experiencing debilitating menstrual or menopause symptoms;

(C) investment in the childcare industry with the goal of providing universal childcare and early learning, including—

(i) robust funding for Head Start and Early Head Start programs;

(ii) Federal financial support for childcare programs to guarantee all families have access to affordable and high quality child care; and

(iii) commitments to pay childcare workers a dignified, living wage;

(D) access to nutritious food as a human right, including through—

(i) boosting SNAP maximum and minimum benefits and removing barriers to access, including time restrictions and additional work requirements; and

(ii) increasing funds for school meals and other nutrition programs to combat child hunger and making school meals more accessible;

(E) the implementation and expansion of child poverty reduction tools that improve income security, infant and maternal health, and educational and economic outcomes into the second generation, including—

(i) a permanent expansion of the child tax credit; and

(ii) improvements in the earned income tax credit, which lifts millions of people above the poverty line each year and boosts labor force participation among single mothers;

(F) addressing the Nation's maternal mortality crisis through critical investments in maternal health care, including ensuring access to the full range of reproductive health care and family planning;

(G) raising the Federal minimum wage for all workers, including tipped workers, and adjusting it on a yearly basis to keep pace with inflation; and

(H) investments in legislation that ensures protections for LGBTQ+ mothers in the workplace, such as the Equality Act, and reduces wage discrimination, such as the Paycheck Fairness Act; and

(5) United States policymakers should include a specific focus on working mothers in future policymaking, beyond the aforementioned policies, including with regard to economic policy, fiscal policy, and social safety net policy, in order to ensure that working mothers and other caregivers can continue to balance their roles as family anchors and caregivers with their work and economic contributions to both their families and the economy of the United States.

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16—URGING ALL COUNTRIES TO OUTLAW THE DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE AND TO ENFORCE EXISTING LAWS AGAINST SUCH TRADE

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 16

Whereas a bipartisan domestic prohibition on the knowing slaughter, transportation, possession, purchase, or sale of a dog or cat for human consumption was included in section 12515 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2160), which was enacted on December 20, 2018;

Whereas the dog and cat meat trade occurs throughout the world;

Whereas established dog meat markets still exist today;

Whereas nonprofit organizations estimate that 30,000,000 dogs and 10,000,000 cats die annually worldwide as a result of the dog and cat meat trade, and those organizations have found that a considerable number of the dogs and cats in this trade are stolen pets still wearing collars when they reach the slaughterhouses, in addition to stray dogs and cats who are captured for slaughter;

Whereas there have been reports of abuse, poor living conditions, and cruel slaughtering techniques for dogs and cats farmed for their meat;

Whereas many dogs and cats die during transport to slaughterhouses after days or

weeks crammed into small cages on the back of vehicles without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport;

Whereas the extreme suffering of dogs and cats at such slaughterhouses and on transportation trucks would breach anti-cruelty laws in the United States and other countries;

Whereas many government officials, civil society advocates, and activists are working to end the dog and cat meat trade on anticruelty and public health grounds;

Whereas the World Health Organization has linked the dog meat industry to human outbreaks of trichinellosis, cholera, and rabies;

Whereas individuals involved in the dog meat industry are at an increased health risk for zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, which can transfer from dogs to humans through infectious material such as saliva;

Whereas the spread of disease may be exacerbated by unsanitary conditions of slaughter and by the sale of dog and cat meat at open-air markets and restaurants; and

Whereas the World Health Organization and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control have both acknowledged the link between the spread of rabies and the dog meat trade which sees large numbers of dogs of unknown disease status moved vast distances: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) calls for an end to the consumption and trade of dog and cat meat on cruelty and public health grounds;

(2) urges all countries with a dog or cat meat trade to adopt and enforce laws banning that trade; and

(3) affirms the commitment of the United States to advancing the cause of animal protection and animal welfare, both domestically and around the world.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 988. Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 935 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WICKER)) to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 989. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 990. Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 991. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 992. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 993. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 994. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 995. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 996. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 997. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 998. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 999. Mr. RISCH (for Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. RISCH)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Risch to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1000. Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1001. Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1002. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1003. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1004. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1005. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1006. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1007. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1008. Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1009. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1010. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1011. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1012. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1013. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 779 submitted by Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 988. Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment in-

tended to be proposed to amendment SA 935 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WICKER)) to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### TITLE —CONNECTING OCEANIA'S NATIONS WITH VANGUARD EXERCISES AND NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

##### SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the “Connecting Oceania’s Nations with Vanguard Exercises and National Empowerment” or the “CONVENE Act of 2023”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this title is as follows:

#### TITLE —CONNECTING OCEANIA'S NATIONS WITH VANGUARD EXERCISES AND NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT

Sec. 01. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 02. Definitions.

Sec. 03. National security councils of specified countries.

##### SEC. 02. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—The term “congressional defense committees” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.—The term “national security council” means, with respect to a specified country, an intergovernmental body under the jurisdiction of the freely elected government of the specified country that acts as the primary coordinating entity for security cooperation, disaster response, and the activities described section 6103(f).

(4) SPECIFIED COUNTRY.—The term “specified country” means—

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(C) the Republic of Palau.

##### SEC. 03. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCILS OF SPECIFIED COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, may consult and engage with each specified country to advise and provide assistance to a national security council (including by developing a national security council, if appropriate), or to identify a similar coordinating body for national security matters, comprised of citizens of the specified country—

(1) that enables the specified country—

(A) to better coordinate with the United States Government, including the Armed Forces, as appropriate;

(B) to increase cohesion on activities, including emergency humanitarian response, law enforcement, and maritime security activities; and

(C) to provide trained professionals to serve as members of the committees of the