

AMENDMENT NO. 931

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 931 proposed to S. 2226, an original bill 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.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2476. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Mental Health for Latinos Act. This important bill would boost our continued efforts to reduce stigma and promote mental wellness, while meeting the diverse needs of Latino communities across the country.

In response to the mental health crisis in the Latino community, this legislation requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy to provide information on evidence-based practices, interventions, and treatments that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and increases awareness of symptoms of mental illnesses common among such populations, considering differences within subgroups, such as gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, race, or ethnicity.

The evidence is clear: We are experiencing a mental health crisis in the Latino community. Disparities within our healthcare system are preventing members of Latino communities from receiving lifesaving mental health services.

These barriers to care are causing too many to suffer in silence, and this must change. Presently, only 36.1 percent of Latino adults aged 18 or older with a mental illness received services in 2021, compared to the U.S. average of 47.2 percent. Between 2010 and 2020, the suicide rate among male Latino adults ages 20 to 64 increased by 35.7 percent, and the female rate increased by 40.6 percent. Even those who are able to access services rarely receive the effective, culturally competent care they need.

This bill would further our continued efforts to reduce stigma and promote mental wellness, while meeting the diverse needs of Latino populations across the country. As our Nation confronts an unfolding mental health cri-

sis, this critical legislation reinforces the timeless message that there is zero shame in asking for help and that seeking support is a sign of strength.

I would like to thank Congresswoman NAPOLITANO for leading this legislation in the House of Representatives, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Mental Health for Latinos Act as soon as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2477. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services; 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. 2477

*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 “Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act”.

#### SEC. 2. COVERAGE OF PHARMACIST SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE PART B.

(a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (II), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (JJ), by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(KK) pharmacist services and such services and supplies furnished as an incident to the pharmacist’s service as would otherwise be covered under part B if furnished by a physician or as an incident to a physician’s service that—

“(i) are furnished by a pharmacist—

“(I) as licensed under State law; or

“(II) pursuant to a Federal emergency authority described under section 319F–3 or section 361 of the Public Health Service Act, or other similar Federal law;

“(ii) would otherwise be covered under part B if furnished by a physician; and

“(iii) are services—

“(I) for encounters for the evaluation and management of patients for testing or treatment for COVID–19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, or streptococcal pharyngitis; or

“(II) that address a public health need related to a public health emergency under section 319F–3 or section 361 of the Public Health Service Act, or other similar Federal law.”; and

(2) in paragraph (10), in each of subparagraphs (A) and (B), by inserting “, including when furnished by a pharmacist” before the semicolon in each such subparagraph.

(b) PAYMENT.—Section 1833(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and (HH)” and inserting “(HH)”; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “and (II) with respect to pharmacist services described in section 1861(s)(2)(KK), the amounts paid shall be equal to 80 percent of the lesser of (i) the actual charge for the services or (ii) 85 percent

(or 100 percent, in the case of such services furnished pursuant to a Federal emergency authority described in clause (i)(II) of such section) of the amount determined under the payment basis under section 1848 for such services.”.

(c) PROHIBITION ON BALANCE BILLING FOR PHARMACIST SERVICES.—Section 1842(b)(18)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(ix) A pharmacist.”.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the ability of pharmacies and pharmacists to enroll and obtain reimbursement under existing pathways under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, including payment as mass immunizers.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall implement the provisions of, and the amendments made by, this section by interim final rule, program instruction, or otherwise not later than the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2479. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an alternative manure management program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Converting Our Waste Sustainably, COWS, Act of 2023. This legislation will help dairy and livestock producers reduce methane emissions, improve air and water quality, and implement more sustainable alternative manure management practices.

As the top dairy State in the country and the second in cheese production, California is the largest producer of milk, butter, and cheeses like mozzarella, Monterey Jack, and queso fresco. Dairy operations contribute billions of dollars to California’s economy but are also responsible for 60 percent of California’s methane emissions.

Recognizing the urgency of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions like methane, California and the dairy industry are on track to reduce dairy methane emissions by 40 percent by 2030 largely due to the successes of California’s own Alternative Manure Management Program.

The COWS Act would establish an Alternative Manure Management Program to help dairy and livestock producers transition toward pasture-based management, alternative treatment and storage practices, solid separation systems, and scrape technologies.

This voluntary program, modeled after California’s extremely successful Alternative Manure Management Program, will provide more resources for the dairy and livestock industry to modernize technologies for manure management that help boost profitability, improve water quality, and reduce methane and nitrogen oxide emissions by fostering climate-smart farming.

The bill also makes composting eligible for funding under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural operations is critical to addressing the climate crisis. Because of the high construction and operation costs associated with anaerobic digesters, nondigester manure management practices can provide a more cost-effective alternative for family dairy and livestock operators seeking to improve profitability while improving air and water quality for their communities.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Senators BROWN and HEINRICH, for their leadership in reducing agricultural methane emissions and Representative COSTA for championing this bill in the House.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the COWS Act as quickly as possible.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 307—REMEMBERING THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN BUENOS AIRES ON MARCH 17, 1992, AND THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE-ISRAELI MUTUAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING IN BUENOS AIRES ON JULY 18, 1994, AND RECOMMITTING TO EFFORTS TO UPHOLD JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS**

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 307

Whereas, on March 17, 1992, a truck laden with explosives struck and detonated at the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people and wounding more than 200 others

Whereas Argentina is home to the largest Jewish community in Latin America and the sixth largest in the world, outside Israel;

Whereas, in 1999, the Supreme Court of Argentina, after conducting an investigation, found that the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah was responsible for the bombing, which claimed the lives of Israeli diplomats, their relatives, and numerous Argentine citizens and children;

Whereas 2 years after the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Argentina, on July 18, 1994, a car bomb detonated at the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center building in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people and wounding more than 300 others, rendering it the deadliest terrorist attack in Argentina's history;

Whereas, for 25 years, the investigation into the AMIA bombing has been stymied by international inaction, political interference, investigative misconduct, and allegations of cover-ups, including the removal of the Federal judge in charge of the case in 2005 for "serious" irregularities in his handling of the case;

Whereas, in October 2006, Argentine prosecutors Alberto Nisman and Marcelo Martín

Burgos formally accused the Government of Iran of directing Hezbollah to carry out the AMIA bombing;

Whereas the Argentine prosecutors charged Iranian nationals as suspects in the AMIA bombing, including—

(1) Ali Fallahjani, Iran's former intelligence minister;

(2) Mohsen Rabbani, Iran's former cultural attaché in Buenos Aires;

(3) Ahmad Reza Asghari, a former Iranian diplomat posted to Argentina;

(4) Ahmad Vahidi, Iran's former defense minister;

(5) Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's former foreign minister;

(6) Mohsen Rezaee, former chief commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;

(7) Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, former President of Iran; and

(8) Hadi Soleimanpour, former Iranian ambassador to Argentina;

Whereas, in November 2007, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) published Red Notices on 5 of the Iranian nationals and Hezbollah operative Ibrahim Hussein Berro;

Whereas those with INTERPOL Red Notices have repeatedly traveled internationally with impunity on more than 20 occasions since 2007;

Whereas, in May 2013, Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman published a 500-page report accusing the Government of Iran of establishing terrorist networks throughout Latin America;

Whereas, in January 2015, Mr. Nisman released the results of an investigation alleging that then-President Fernandez de Kirchner and then-Foreign Minister Timerman conspired to cover up Iranian involvement in the 1994 AMIA bombing and that they had agreed to negotiate immunity for Iranian suspects and secure the removal of the INTERPOL Red Notices;

Whereas Mr. Nisman was scheduled to present his findings to a commission of the Argentine National Congress on January 19, 2015, but on January 18, 2015, was found dead as the result of a gunshot wound to his head in his apartment in Buenos Aires;

Whereas, to date, no one has been brought to justice for the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, or the death of Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman; and

Whereas the Third Federal Criminal and Correctional Court of Buenos Aires requested—

(1) on October 18, 2022, that Qatar detain Mohsen Rezaee; and

(2) on June 15, 2023, that Argentinian authorities and INTERPOL work together to apprehend Lebanese nationals Hussein Mounir Mouzannar, Ali Hussein Abdallah, Farouk Abdul Hay Omairi, and Abdallah Salman for the role of these individuals in the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1992 attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 attack on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires;

(2) honors the victims of the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 AMIA bombing and expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims who are still waiting for justice;

(3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decades-long delay in resolving the 1992 and 1994 terrorist attacks in Argentina and urges the President of the United States to offer technical assistance to the Government of Argentina to support the ongoing investigations;

(4) urges the Government of Argentina and the international community to continue efforts to bring the perpetrators of the March 17, 1992, and July 18, 1994, terrorist attacks to justice, including by—

(A) enforcing the Red Notices issued by the International Criminal Police Organization; and

(B) extending such Red Notices prior to expiration;

(5) calls upon the Government of Argentina to conclude the investigation into the murder of Alberto Nisman so the responsible individuals are brought to justice;

(6) commends the Government of Argentina for designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and urges other United States allies and partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to do the same; and

(7) commends the Government of Argentina for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism and encourages other partners and allies to do the same.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 308—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 308

Whereas the Department of Defense State Partnership Program (referred to in this preamble as the "State Partnership Program") has evolved from a program designed to assist countries emerging from behind the Iron Curtain to one that now involves 100 nations and the National Guard of every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas members of the National Guard work with partner militaries to bolster capabilities, improve interoperability, and enhance principles of responsible governance;

Whereas the State Partnership Program delivers a significant return on investment by broadening the pool of security partners who are willing and able to support defense and security cooperation objectives of the United States around the world;

Whereas most of the earliest State Partnership Program partner countries in Europe have gone on to become United States allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and many of them credit the State Partnership Program and their National Guard State partners with helping to make that possible;

Whereas the State Partnership Program helps ensure that the Department of Defense has capable, trusted, and interoperable partners;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has created 88 enduring, cost-effective partnerships with 100 nations encompassing over ½ of the countries in the world;