

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 993 intended to be 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 999

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 999 intended to be 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1032

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1032 intended to be 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. KAINE (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for periodic automatic reenrollment under qualified automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, today I am introducing the Auto Reenroll Act of 2023, alongside Senator CASSIDY. Enacting this bill would improve financial security for Americans by strengthening their private retirement savings.

Nearly 7 in 10 Americans working in the private sector have access to employer-sponsored retirement plans, but a quarter of those with access do not participate in those plans. This means less money saved for retirement. Often, it means leaving money on the table, in the form of employer-matching contributions. Encouraging more employees to participate in their workplace plans would increase their overall compensation and improve their financial security and retirement outlook.

The Auto Reenroll Act of 2023 would boost participation by encouraging safe harbor retirement plans to adopt auto-

matic reenrollment features. Automatic enrollment plans have been tremendously successful at encouraging workers to participate in employer-sponsored plans, but employees who opt out of participating at the beginning of their tenure will likely never reconsider that decision. This bill would build on the success of auto enrollment by permitting employers to reenroll nonparticipants once every 3 years, providing them another opportunity to consider participation. This would encourage those employees to reassess their nonparticipation as their financial situation evolves.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to bolster private retirement savings.

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

S. 2547. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to bolster fairness and transparency in the consideration of interstate natural gas pipeline permits, to provide for greater public input opportunities in the natural gas pipeline permitting process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, today, I am introducing a bill to make the process of siting natural gas pipelines fairer, more transparent, and more responsive to landowner concerns.

For some time now, I have been listening to Virginians with passionate views on the process involved in permitting the Mountain Valley Pipeline, as well as the previous proposal for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. For various reasons, many oppose one or both of these projects, while others support these projects. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, is tasked with analyzing all the issues—purpose and need for a project, impacts on people living on the route, potential risks to the environment or property—and deciding what course best serves the public interest.

From listening to all sides, I have concluded that while reasonable people may reach different conclusions, FERC's public input process is flawed and could be better. Accordingly, this legislation proposes several steps to address several shortcomings, all of which were originally brought to my attention by Virginia constituents. For instance, this bill requires programmatic analysis of pipelines proposed around the same time and in the same geographic vicinity so that the full impacts of multiple projects can be analyzed. It requires a greater number of public comment meetings so that citizens are not required to commute long distances to meetings at which they must speed through just a few minutes of remarks on these complex topics. It ensures that affected landowners are given proper notice and compensation. It guarantees that landowner complaints will be heard before construction commences. And it clarifies the circumstances under which

eminent domain should and should not be used.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleague Senator MARK WARNER on this bill. The public deserves reasonable opportunity to weigh in on energy infrastructure projects, and we are heeding calls by our constituents to make this process fairer and more transparent without mandating a particular outcome.

I encourage the Senate to consider this legislation, not to pave the way for pipelines nor to throw up insurmountable roadblocks to them but to give the public greater certainty that the Federal Government's infrastructure decisions are fair and transparent.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 311—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS “MACEDONIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH” AND CELEBRATING THE LANGUAGE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE OF MACEDONIAN AMERICANS AND THEIR INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BRAUN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 311

Whereas, since the 1880s, tens of thousands of Macedonians have immigrated to the United States seeking civil liberties, human rights, religious freedom, economic opportunity, and security in response to the 1903 Ilinden Uprising against the Ottoman Empire, the 1912-1913 Balkan Wars, World War I and World War II, the 1946-1949 Greek Civil War, and the communist policies of Yugoslavia;

Whereas these Macedonian American immigrants have settled across the United States, contributing to their communities in innumerable ways as loyal and patriotic citizens;

Whereas there are an estimated 500,000 individuals of Macedonian heritage living in the United States, with sizeable communities in the States of Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California;

Whereas the Macedonian American community in the United States is a vibrant community that is embedded within the mosaic of the United States, partaking in all walks of life, business, medicine, law, technology, civic engagement, government, the military, education, the arts, culinary world, athletics, and more;

Whereas Macedonian American entrepreneurs have exhibited resilience, determination, and a commitment to hard work by overcoming challenges to achieve business success and contribute to the foundation of commerce in the United States;

Whereas Macedonian American athletes have achieved remarkable success in various sporting disciplines and contributed to the rich tapestry of the sporting tradition in the United States by winning medals at the Olympic Games, winning league championships, and owning sports teams;

Whereas Macedonian American artists have demonstrated exceptional skill in various art forms, including the visual arts, literature, music, dance, theater, film, and photography, leaving an indelible mark on the artistic tradition of the United States;

Whereas members of the Macedonian American community have contributed greatly to the field of medicine, including in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, orthopedic surgery and sports medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology, among others;

Whereas Macedonian Americans have been elected to serve in legislatures and courtrooms across the country, collaborating on the never-ending work of democracy in the United States; and

Whereas it is important to highlight these critical contributions and the cultural impact of Macedonian Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2023 as “Macedonian American Heritage Month” to honor the cultural contributions and achievements of Macedonian Americans;

(2) recognizes the numerous contributions of Macedonian Americans to the United States in various fields, including arts, sciences, business, politics, academics, medicine and sports; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Macedonian American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that honor the cultural contributions and achievements of Macedonian Americans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 AND CALLING FOR FURTHER ACTION TO STRENGTHEN HOME AND COMMUNITY LIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 312

Whereas, in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), Congress recognized that “historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem”;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 recognizes the rights of individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities through independent living, equality of opportunity, and economic self-sufficiency;

Whereas, 33 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and 24 years after the date of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), many individuals with disabilities continue to live in segregated institutional settings because of a lack of support services in their communities;

Whereas the continuation of segregated institutional settings has hindered the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in communities, schools, and workplaces, undermining the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas individuals with disabilities living in institutional and long-term care settings have endured disproportionate rates of infection and death during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities have been disparately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities experience disproportionately greater barriers to high quality and accessible healthcare, education, and competitive integrated employment opportunities, infringing on their right to fully participate in their communities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas, 33 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990—

(1) women with disabilities continue to regularly face barriers to reproductive healthcare, including inaccessible and inequitable services;

(2) individuals with disabilities continue to face high rates of unemployment and barriers to accessible workplaces;

(3) nearly a quarter of the population of individuals with disabilities live below the poverty line;

(4) some telecommunication, electronic, and information technologies continue to be developed without the goal of making those technologies fully accessible for all individuals of the United States; and

(5) many businesses, public and private organizations, transportation systems, and services remain inaccessible to many individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 represents the floor, and not the ceiling, of efforts needed to dismantle barriers to full participation, equal opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

Whereas fulfilling the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires individuals, families, communities, and government to work together to guarantee that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to thrive in their communities and in their lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate the advancement of inclusion and equality of opportunity made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

(3) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to identify and address the remaining barriers that undermine the national goals of equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation for individuals with disabilities, including by focusing on individuals with disabilities who remain segregated in institutions;

(4) pledges to work with States to improve access to home- and community-based services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) calls on the Department of Labor to develop policies and practices and provide technical assistance that enable individuals with disabilities to become economically self-sufficient;

(6) calls on the Federal Communications Commission to provide information, resources, and technical assistance to enable individuals with disabilities to have full and equitable access to communications and telecommunications services and technologies;

(7) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information, resources, and technical assistance related to home- and community-based services and to enable individuals with disabilities to live independently;

(8) calls on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide accessible and inclusive homes and communities that increase the options available for accessible, inclusive, and equitable housing for individuals with disabilities; and

(9) calls on the Department of Transportation to create accessible transit and airports and increase the hiring, promotion, and retention of individuals with disabilities in the transportation workforce.

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH” TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 313

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase the focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas designating September 2023 as “National Child Awareness Month” would