

Whereas racism produces unjust outcomes and treatment for members of racial and ethnic minority groups, with such negative experiences serving as stressors that over time have a negative impact on physical health (leading, for example, to high blood pressure or hypertension) and mental health (leading, for example, to anxiety or depression);

Whereas there is evidence that racial and ethnic minority groups continue to face discrimination in the United States, examples of which include that—

(1) social scientists have documented racial microaggressions in contemporary United States society, including—

(A) assumptions that members of racial and ethnic minority groups are not true Americans;

(B) assumptions of lesser intelligence;

(C) statements that convey color-blindness or denial of the importance of race;

(D) assumptions of criminality or dangerousness;

(E) denial of individual racism;

(F) promotion of the myth of meritocracy;

(G) assumptions that the cultural background and communication styles of an individual are pathological;

(H) treatment as a second-class citizen; and

(I) environmental messages of being unwelcome or devalued;

(2) compared to White Americans, Black Americans are 5 times more likely to report experiencing discrimination when interacting with the police, Hispanic or Latino Americans and Native Americans are nearly 3 times as likely, and Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders are nearly twice as likely;

(3) 42 percent of employees in the United States have experienced or witnessed racism in the workplace;

(4) Muslims, South Asians, and Sikhs were unjustly targeted for profiling, surveillance, arrest, discrimination, harassment, assault, and murder after 9/11;

(5) xenophobic rhetoric, including anti-immigrant rhetoric and the scapegoating of people of East Asian and Southeast Asian descent for the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in a surge of hate against Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, including increased harassment, discrimination, bullying, vandalism, and assault;

(6) nearly ½ of Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders throughout the United States have experienced discrimination or unfair treatment that may be illegal and the majority of victims of discrimination name race or related characteristics as the reason for the discrimination; and

(7) more than 50 percent of Hispanic or Latino adults experience at least one form of discrimination due to their racial or ethnic heritage, such as being treated as if they were not smart, criticized for speaking Spanish, told to return to their country, called offensive names, or unfairly stopped by the police;

Whereas Black people in the United States experience overt and direct forms of violence that, when not fatal, can cause severe physical or psychological harm;

Whereas examples of such forms of violence include—

(1) that Black people are confronted and threatened by armed citizens while performing everyday tasks, such as jogging in neighborhoods, driving, or playing in a park;

(2) that Black people are 3 times more likely to be killed by police than White people, and police violence is the sixth leading cause of death for young Black men;

(3) the killings of Tamir Rice, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Eli-

jah McClain, Jayland Walker, Jeenan Anderson, Timothy McCree Johnson, Jordan Neely, and countless other Black Americans by law enforcement;

(4) that it took the United States 66 years after the senseless and brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till to make lynching a Federal crime;

(5) that, since 2015, mass shootings around the country, such as in Buffalo, New York, and Charleston, South Carolina, serve as reminders of the unresolved history of racism in the United States and highlight the threats Black people must take into consideration when going about their daily lives, both when outside their communities and within those communities; and

(6) that the real threat of brutality and violence adversely impacts mental health among Black communities;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives experience historical trauma, systemic oppression, and cultural genocide that, even when not fatal, can cause severe physical or psychological harm;

Whereas examples of such forms of violence include—

(1) forced relocation, termination, and assimilation policies such as boarding schools that contributed to health disparities and legacies of trauma inflicted on indigenous people;

(2) the United States Army attempting cultural genocide by instigating numerous massacres, including the mass execution of 38 Dakota men in Minnesota and the murder of 300 Lakota people at the Battle of Wounded Knee, to eradicate American Indians and Alaska Natives;

(3) murder being the third leading cause of death for Native women and ¼ of Indigenous women experiencing violence in their lifetime;

(4) since 2016, there have been 5,712 cases of missing and murdered indigenous women and people across the United States, including 506 cases in 71 urban cities and 153 cases missing from law enforcement databases, with those missing cases likely undercounting the actual number of cases due to the underreporting of cases within American Indian and Alaska Native communities;

(5) the overall death rate from suicide among American Indians and Alaska Natives is 20 percent higher compared to non-Hispanic White populations; and

(6) cycles of violence have overburdened indigenous communities to respond to levels of violence such as gender-based violence, human trafficking, suicide, and homicide with minimal resources;

Whereas Hispanics or Latinos, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders experience racially motivated kidnapping, murders, and mass violence, such as shootings in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, El Paso and Allen, Texas, Atlanta, Georgia, and Indianapolis, Indiana, that, even when not fatal, can cause severe physical or psychological harm;

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, members of racial and ethnic minority groups have been at the forefront of civil rights movements for essential freedoms, human rights, and equal protection for marginalized groups and continue to fight for racial and economic justice today;

Whereas racial inequities in health continue to persist because of historical and contemporary racism;

Whereas public health experts agree that racism meets the criteria of a public health crisis because—

(1) the condition affects many people, is seen as a threat to the public, and is continuing to increase;

(2) the condition is distributed unfairly;

(3) preventive measures could reduce the effects of the condition; and

(4) those preventive measures are not yet in place;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—

(1) declared racism a serious threat to public health; and

(2) acknowledged the need for additional research and investments to address that serious threat;

Whereas a Federal public health crisis declaration proclaims racism as a pervasive health issue and alerts the people of the United States to the need to enact immediate and effective cross-governmental efforts to address the root causes of structural racism and the downstream impacts of that racism; and

Whereas such a declaration requires the response of governments to engage significant resources to empower the communities that are impacted; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the resolutions drafted, introduced, and adopted by cities and localities across the United States declaring racism a public health crisis;

(2) declares racism a public health crisis in the United States;

(3) commits to—

(A) establishing a nationwide strategy to address health disparities and inequities across all sectors in society;

(B) dismantling systemic practices and policies that perpetuate racism;

(C) advancing reforms to address years of neglectful and apathetic policies that have led to poor health outcomes for members of racial and ethnic minority groups; and

(D) promoting efforts to address the social determinants of health for all racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States, and especially for Black and Native American communities; and

(4) places a charge on the people of the United States to move forward with urgency to ensure that the United States stands firmly in honoring its moral purpose of advancing the self-evident truths that all people are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights, and that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF EYVIN HERNANDEZ, A UNITED STATES CITIZEN AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER, WHO WAS WRONGFULLY DETAINED BY THE VENEZUELAN REGIME IN MARCH 2022

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

S. RES. 320

Whereas, since 2006, Eyvin Hernandez has been a public defender for Los Angeles County, dedicating his career to representing the most vulnerable people in the county;

Whereas Eyvin Hernandez is a man of impeccable character and a beloved member of his community, admired by many who know him for his deep devotion to justice, respect for humanity, willingness to help others, patience, kindness, and intellect;

Whereas Eyvin Hernandez has volunteered his time to advocate for children in the juvenile justice system, to mentor aspiring young lawyers through the Latina Lawyer Bar Association and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Law Fellows Program, and to participate in the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union, Local

148, where he previously served on the board of directors;

Whereas Eyvin Hernandez is an alumnus of the UCLA School of Law and of El Camino College, UCLA, where he majored in physics and mathematics;

Whereas Eyvin Hernandez's family immigrated to the United States when he was a toddler, fleeing the civil war in El Salvador and seeking a better life;

Whereas, on March 31, 2022, Eyvin Hernandez was captured by armed, masked men in the vicinity of the Colombia-Venezuela border, and, once his United States citizenship was discovered, was transferred to Venezuela and detained;

Whereas the Venezuelan regime charged Eyvin Hernandez with criminal association and conspiracy, which could lead to 16 years of imprisonment;

Whereas there has been no serious effort to provide legitimate evidence to corroborate those allegations nor to hold trial proceedings to adjudicate his case, highlighting the fabricated grounds for Eyvin Hernandez's detention;

Whereas Eyvin Hernandez was not included in the October 2022 prisoner exchange that allowed 7 Americans imprisoned in Venezuela to return home to the United States;

Whereas, on October 21, 2022, the Department of State designated Eyvin Hernandez as wrongfully detained;

Whereas, in June 2023, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs attempted to secure Eyvin Hernandez's release during a visit to Caracas;

Whereas, even in prison, Eyvin Hernandez has served as an advocate for his fellow detained Americans, translating their needs to the guards in Spanish and helping them articulate their cases to officials of the Department of State;

Whereas the Los Angeles County community, including Eyvin Hernandez's former mentees, colleagues, classmates, friends, and family, have created a coalition to advocate for his release, highlight the arbitrary and unjust nature of his detention, and continue fighting to bring him home; and

Whereas Eyvin Hernandez is a valued citizen of the city of Los Angeles, the State of California, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Venezuelan regime to immediately release Eyvin Hernandez from unjust imprisonment;

(2) urges all officials of the executive branch of the United States, including President Joseph R. Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, and Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs Roger Carstens, to use all the tools at the disposal of the executive branch to secure the immediate release of Eyvin Hernandez;

(3) condemns the Venezuelan regime's continued use of detentions of citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States for political purposes;

(4) expresses continued support for all citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained in Venezuela, along with all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained abroad; and

(5) expresses solidarity with and sympathy for Eyvin Hernandez, his friends and family, and those advocating for his immediate release, for the personal hardship experienced as a result of the arbitrary and baseless detention of their loved one.

SENATE RESOLUTION 321—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE RELATING TO NUCLEAR POWER AND THE COMMITMENT OF THE SENATE TO EMBRACING AND PROMOTING NUCLEAR POWER AS A CLEAN BASELOAD ENERGY SOURCE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE A RELIABLE, SECURE, AND DIVERSIFIED ELECTRIC GRID

Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 321

Resolved, That—

(1) in order to maintain geopolitical energy leadership, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the energy security of the United States, the Senate is committed to embracing and promoting nuclear power as a clean baseload energy source necessary to achieve a reliable, secure, and diversified electric grid; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) among allies and partners of the United States, nuclear energy presents an advantageous export opportunity for United States advanced manufacturing and technical expertise; and

(B) to realize the benefits of next-generation nuclear deployment—

(i) a robust domestic production base of low-enriched uranium and high-assay, low-enriched uranium needs to be established;

(ii) the domestic nuclear supply chain and the associated workforce needs to be further established, and a highly trained and capable workforce of scientists, engineers, operators, regulators, and trades workers needs to be cultivated; and

(iii) robust public-private financing mechanisms should be pursued.

SENATE RESOLUTION 322—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND ENTERTAINMENT CAREER OF TONY BENNETT

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 322

Whereas Tony Bennett, born Anthony Dominick Benedetto, on August 3, 1926, was an iconic singer, performer, and artist who made significant contributions to the world of music and entertainment throughout an illustrious career;

Whereas the unparalleled talent, exceptional vocal range, and soulful renditions of the timeless classics of Tony Bennett touched the hearts of millions of people around the globe, leaving an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of the United States;

Whereas the dedication to craft, tireless pursuit of excellence, and unwavering commitment to preserving the Great American Songbook earned Tony Bennett numerous accolades, including 20 Grammy Awards, a Kennedy Center honor, and the distinction of being a National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master;

Whereas philanthropic efforts by Tony Bennett, which included support for arts

education and humanitarian causes, exemplified the compassionate spirit of Tony Bennett and a commitment to making the world a better place;

Whereas Tony Bennett was a native son of Astoria, Queens, a community that was always close to his heart, where he helped to found the Frank Sinatra High School of the Arts;

Whereas the devotion of Tony Bennett to this country was evident during service in the United States Army during World War II in France and Germany;

Whereas Tony Bennett was a lifelong champion of civil rights, using music to develop a platform to speak out vociferously against racism and discrimination;

Whereas Tony Bennett marched with Harry Belafonte in the historic Selma-to-Montgomery marches, standing alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to demand equality and justice for all; and

Whereas the musical legacy of Tony Bennett not only enriched the lives of fans but also served as an inspiration to countless aspiring artists, encouraging these artists to pursue dreams and strive for greatness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) uses August 3, 2023, to commemorate the birth of this legendary artist, a day which marks not only the passing of another year, but also an opportunity to celebrate an extraordinary life and the impact Tony Bennett has had on the United States and the world;

(2) proclaims August 3, 2023, as "Tony Bennett Day" across the country, urging all citizens to join together in honoring this extraordinary man and the tremendous contributions to the arts and society; and

(3) calls upon educational institutions, community organizations, and the people of the United States to participate in events and activities that celebrate the music, career, and philanthropy of Tony Bennett, fostering a deeper appreciation for the arts and the role the arts play in enriching the lives of the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 323—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FENTANYL PREVENTION AND AWARENESS DAY ON AUGUST 21, 2023

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 323

Whereas families in the United States affected by the use of illicit fentanyl use Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day to—

(1) preserve the memory of the individuals lost to fentanyl overdose or poisoning who were unsuspecting victims, experimenting with the drug, or suffering from substance use disorder;

(2) acknowledge the devastation caused by the use of illicit fentanyl and other dangerous drugs; and

(3) share awareness about the dangers of the use of illicit fentanyl to prevent a public health crisis, self-harm, addiction, and death;

Whereas Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day is celebrated each year on August 21 by State governors and attorneys general, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, parent-teacher associations, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Drug Enforcement Administration (referred to in this preamble as the "DEA"),