

public access to information about grant funding related to mental health and substance use disorder programs.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2738

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2738, a bill to prohibit through December 31, 2024, the imposition of a mask mandate on passengers of air carriers or public transit and in educational settings within the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 2817

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2817, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employers from paying employees in the garment industry by piece rate, to require manufacturers and contractors in the garment industry to register with the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 2860

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2860, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2926. A bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 2926

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 “Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON RIFLES CAPABLE OF FIRING .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 922, by adding at the end the following:

“(aa) RIFLES CAPABLE OF FIRING .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person to import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, a rifle capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) GOVERNMENT USE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the importation for, manufacture for, sale to, transfer to, or possession by the United States, a department or agency of the United States, a State, or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State, of a rifle capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition.

“(B) GRANDFATHERED RIFLES.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the sale, transfer, or possession of any rifle otherwise lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment of the Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2023.”; and

(2) in section 924(a)(1)(B), by striking “or (q)” and inserting “(q), or (aa)”.

(b) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN RIFLES AS FIREARMS UNDER NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5845(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and (8) a destructive device” and inserting “(8) a destructive device; and (9) a rifle which is capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition and is lawfully possessed on or be-

fore the date of enactment of the Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2023”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date which is 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) REGISTRATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or any other provision of law, any person possessing a rifle which is capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition which is not registered to such person in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record shall register each such rifle so possessed with the Secretary in such form and manner as the Secretary may require within the 12-month period immediately following the date of enactment of this Act. No fee or tax shall be imposed with respect to any registration required under this subparagraph.

(ii) INCLUSION IN REGISTRY.—Any registration described in clause (i) shall become a part of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. No information or evidence required to be submitted or retained by a natural person to register a firearm under this subparagraph shall be used, directly or indirectly, as evidence against such person in any criminal proceeding with respect to a prior or concurrent violation of law.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER RECORD.—The term “National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record” means the registry established pursuant to section 5841 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(ii) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” has the same meaning given such term under section 7701(a)(11)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 3. EXCEPTION TO COVERAGE UNDER PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT.

Section 4(5)(A) of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (15 U.S.C. 7903(5)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) an action brought against a manufacturer or seller that knowingly sells or transfers a qualified product, or attempts or conspires to do so, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the transaction is prohibited under section 805(c) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1904(c)).”.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL FIREARM PROHIBITOR FOR SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN PERSONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) is—

“(A) a significant foreign narcotics trafficker publicly identified by the President in a report under subsection (b) or (h)(1) of section 804 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1903); or

“(B) a foreign person designated by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 805(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1904(b)); or”; and

(4) in paragraph (12), as so redesignated, by striking “(10)” and inserting “(11)”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO NICS.—Section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting “or that transfer of a firearm or ammunition to the individual would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code,”;

(2) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or to whom transfer of a firearm would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code or State law,”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “or that transfer of a firearm or ammunition to the person would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code,”;

(C) in subparagraph (F)(iii)(I), by striking “(g) or (n)” and inserting “(d)(11), (g), or (n)”;

(D) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking “(g) or (n)” and inserting “(d)(11), (g), or (n)”;

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting “or that transfer of a firearm to a prospective transferee would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,” after “section 922 of title 18, United States Code or State law,”; and

(4) in subsection (i)(2)—

(A) by striking “persons,” and inserting “persons who are”;

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or to whom transfer of a firearm would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922”.

SEC. 5. ADDING RIFLES TO MULTIPLE FIREARM SALES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 923(g)(3)(A) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “pistols, or revolvers, or any combination of pistols and revolvers” and inserting “pistols, revolvers, or rifles, or any combination of pistols, revolvers, and rifles”.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. REED):

S. 2929. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 2929

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 “Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. INCREASING EXCISE TAXES ON CIGARETTES AND ESTABLISHING EXCISE TAX EQUITY AMONG ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX RATES.

(a) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.—Section 5701(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$24.78” and inserting “\$49.56”.

(b) TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO.—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$2.8311 cents” and inserting “\$49.56”.

(c) TAX PARITY FOR SMOKELESS TOBACCO.—(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$1.51” and inserting “\$26.84”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “50.33 cents” and inserting “\$10.74”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SMOKELESS TOBACCO SOLD IN DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS.—On discrete single-use units, \$100.66 per thousand.”.

(2) Section 5702(m) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or chewing tobacco” and inserting “, chewing tobacco, or discrete single-use unit”;

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting “that is not a discrete single-use unit” before the period in each such paragraph; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNIT.—The term ‘discrete single-use unit’ means any product containing, made from, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that—

“(A) is not intended to be smoked; and

“(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, dissolvable strip, or other discrete single-use or single-dose unit.”.

(d) TAX PARITY FOR SMALL CIGARS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$50.33” and inserting “\$100.66”.

(e) TAX PARITY FOR LARGE CIGARS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “52.75 percent” and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: “\$49.56 per pound and a proportionate tax at the like rate on all fractional parts of a pound but not less than 10.066 cents per cigar.”.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary’s delegate, may issue guidance regarding the appropriate method for determining the weight of large cigars for purposes of calculating the applicable tax under section 5701(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5702 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (1).

(f) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO AND CERTAIN PROCESSED TOBACCO.—Subsection (o) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “, and includes processed tobacco that is removed for delivery or delivered to a person other than a person with a permit provided under section 5713, but does not include removals of processed tobacco for exportation” after “wrappers thereof”.

(g) IMPOSITION OF TAX ON NICOTINE FOR USE IN VAPING, ETC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i) and by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

“(h) NICOTINE.—On taxable nicotine, manufactured in or imported into the United States, there shall be imposed a tax equal to the dollar amount specified in section 5701(b)(1) per 1,810 milligrams of nicotine (and a proportionate tax at the like rate on any fractional part thereof).”.

(2) TAXABLE NICOTINE.—Section 5702 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(q) TAXABLE NICOTINE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the term ‘taxable nicotine’ means any nicotine which has been extracted, concentrated, or synthesized.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR PRODUCTS APPROVED BY FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.—Such term shall not include any nicotine if the manufacturer or importer thereof demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Health and Human Services that such nicotine will be used in—

“(A) a drug—

“(i) that is approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or

licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; or

“(ii) for which an investigational use exemption has been authorized under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act; or

“(B) a combination product (as described in section 503(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act), the constituent parts of which were approved or cleared under section 505, 510(k), or 515 of such Act.

“(3) COORDINATION WITH TAXATION OF OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Tobacco products meeting the definition of cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco in this section shall be classified and taxed as such despite any concentration of the nicotine inherent in those products or any addition of nicotine to those products during the manufacturing process.

“(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as is necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including regulations or other guidance for coordinating the taxation of tobacco products and taxable nicotine to protect revenue and prevent double taxation.”.

(3) TAXABLE NICOTINE TREATED AS A TOBACCO PRODUCT.—Section 5702(c) of such Code is amended by striking “and roll-your-own tobacco” and inserting “roll-your-own tobacco, and taxable nicotine”.

(4) MANUFACTURER OF TAXABLE NICOTINE.—Section 5702 of such Code, as amended by paragraph (2), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(r) MANUFACTURER OF TAXABLE NICOTINE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who extracts, concentrates, or synthesizes nicotine shall be treated as a manufacturer of taxable nicotine (and as manufacturing such taxable nicotine).

“(2) APPLICATION OF RULES RELATED TO MANUFACTURERS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Any reference to a manufacturer of tobacco products, or to manufacturing tobacco products, shall be treated as including a reference to a manufacturer of taxable nicotine, or to manufacturing taxable nicotine, respectively.”.

(h) INCREASING TAX ON CIGARETTES.—

(1) SMALL CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “\$50.33” and inserting “\$100.66”.

(2) LARGE CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “\$105.69” and inserting “\$211.38”.

(i) TAX RATES ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.—Section 5701 of such Code, as amended by subsection (g), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2023, the dollar amounts provided under this chapter shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2022’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$0.01, such amount shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$0.01.”.

(j) FLOOR STOCKS TAXES.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—On tobacco products manufactured in or imported into the United States which are removed before any tax increase date and held on such date for sale by any person, there is hereby imposed a tax in an amount equal to the excess of—

(A) the tax which would be imposed under section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 on the article if the article had been removed on such date, over

(B) the prior tax (if any) imposed under section 5701 of such Code on such article.

(2) CREDIT AGAINST TAX.—Each person shall be allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by paragraph (1) an amount equal to \$500. Such credit shall not exceed the amount of taxes imposed by paragraph (1) on such date for which such person is liable.

(3) LIABILITY FOR TAX AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

(A) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—A person holding tobacco products on any tax increase date to which any tax imposed by paragraph (1) applies shall be liable for such tax.

(B) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulations.

(C) TIME FOR PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid on or before the date that is 120 days after the effective date of the tax rate increase.

(4) ARTICLES IN FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the Foreign Trade Zone Act, 48 Stat. 998, 19 U.S.C. 81a et seq.), or any other provision of law, any article which is located in a foreign trade zone on any tax increase date shall be subject to the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(A) internal revenue taxes have been determined, or customs duties liquidated, with respect to such article before such date pursuant to a request made under the first proviso of section 3(a) of such Act, or

(B) such article is held on such date under the supervision of an officer of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the second proviso of such section 3(a).

(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in this subsection which is also used in section 5702 of such Code shall have the same meaning as such term has in such section.

(B) TAX INCREASE DATE.—The term “tax increase date” means the effective date of any increase in any tobacco product excise tax rate pursuant to the amendments made by this section (other than subsection (j) thereof).

(C) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate.

(6) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—Rules similar to the rules of section 5061(e)(3) of such Code shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(7) OTHER LAWS APPLICABLE.—All provisions of law, including penalties, applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by section 5701 of such Code shall, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection, apply to the floor stocks taxes imposed by paragraph (1), to the same extent as if such taxes were imposed by such section 5701. The Secretary may treat any person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) as the person to whom a credit or refund under such provisions may be allowed or made.

(k) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amendments made by subsections (c)(1)(C), (c)(2), and (f) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) LARGE CIGARS.—The amendments made by subsection (e) shall apply to articles removed after December 31, 2023.

(4) TAXABLE NICOTINE.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall apply to articles removed in calendar quarters beginning after the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(1) TRANSITION RULE FOR PERMIT AND BOND REQUIREMENTS.—A person which is lawfully engaged in business as a manufacturer or importer of taxable nicotine (within the meaning of subchapter A of chapter 52 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by this section) on the date of the enactment of this Act, first becomes subject to the requirements of subchapter B of chapter 52 of such Code by reason of the amendments made by this section, and submits an application under such subchapter B to engage in such business not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not be denied the right to carry on such business by reason of such requirements before final action on such application.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 361—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 ON THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND CALLING FOR FURTHER ACTION TO ADVANCE ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND EQUITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 361

Whereas September 26, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.);

Whereas, with the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the discrimination faced by individuals with disabilities was recognized as systemic, rather than as an experience of the individual;

Whereas the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) was modeled on anti-discrimination laws on the basis of race and sex;

Whereas the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) recognized individuals with disabilities as a class of people subject to discrimination based on the identity individuals with disabilities share;

Whereas Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to enact legislation to address the civil rights of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas Congress passed the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), which President Richard Nixon signed into law on September 26, 1973;

Whereas, in enacting the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), Congress, for the first time, addressed the civil rights of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) expanded employment opportunities and further advanced independent living for individuals with disabilities through improvements to vocational rehabilitation services;

Whereas section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791)—

(1) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in Federal employment and has resulted in the Federal Government benefitting from the efforts of the nearly 10 percent of the Federal workforce who have disabilities; and

(2) requires Federal agencies to establish an affirmative action program for the hiring, placement, and advancement of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 793) prohibits Federal contractors from discriminating in employment against individuals with disabilities and requires employers take affirmative actions to recruit, hire, promote, and retain individuals with disabilities;

Whereas title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.) established the Independent Living Services and Centers of Independent Living programs to promote the independence, self-determination, equal access, and leadership of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all federally assisted programs or activities and laid the foundation for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

Whereas section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) has impacted access to and equity in healthcare, education, community living, employment opportunities, housing, transportation, electronic information and technology, and all other facets of life for individuals with disabilities;

Whereas, on April 28, 1977, nearly 4 years after the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), disability rights activists secured implementation of the rights established under that Act after leading sit-ins of Federal buildings across the United States;

Whereas section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), an important addition made to the Act in 1986 and expanded in 1998, improves the information and communications technology of Federal agencies to be accessible to individuals with disabilities;

Whereas 50 years after the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), individuals with disabilities still experience discrimination and barriers that interfere with their full participation in economic and social life in the United States; and

Whereas, 50 years after the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Act remains a critical law in advancing access, opportunity, and equity for individuals with disabilities, especially in historically underserved communities, and in meeting the goals of full participation, equal opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of access, opportunity, and equity for individuals with disabilities, made possible by the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.);

(2) encourages individuals of the United States to celebrate the advancements made possible by the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.);

(3) pledges to continue to work in a bipartisan manner to address access and equity barriers that remain for individuals with disabilities, particularly multimarginalized individuals, including Black, indigenous, and other people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ people, low-income individuals, and people living in rural and underserved areas;