

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2989, a bill to provide for eligibility for E-1 and E-2 non-immigrant visas for nationals of Iceland.

S. 3008

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3008, a bill to provide back pay to Federal contractors, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 42, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Nutrition Service relating to "Application of *Bostock v. Clayton County* to Program Discrimination Complaint Processing-Policy Update".

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program".

S.J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Niger that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution commemorating the fifth anniversary of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and calling for accountability.

S. RES. 362

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 362, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the constitutional right of State Governors to repel the dangerous ongoing invasion across the United States southern border.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3024. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants available to States to inform Medicaid enrollees, SNAP participants, and low-income residents of potential eligibility for the Affordable Connectivity and Lifeline programs of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. 3024

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 "Promoting Access to Broadband Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY AND LIFE-LINE ENROLLMENT OUTREACH GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—The term "covered individuals" means—

- (A) Medicaid enrollees;
- (B) SNAP participants; and
- (C) low-income residents.

(3) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term "covered program" means—

(A) the Affordable Connectivity Program established under section 904(b) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(b)), or any successor program; and

(B) the Lifeline program established under subpart E of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(4) ELIGIBLE-BUT-NOT-ENROLLED.—The term "eligible-but-not-enrolled" means, with respect to an individual, that the individual is eligible for, but is not enrolled in, a covered program.

(5) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "Indian Tribe" has the meaning given the term "Indian tribe" in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(6) LOW-INCOME.—The term "low-income" means a gross annual income that qualifies a household for participation in a covered program.

(7) MEDICAID ENROLLEE.—The term "Medicaid enrollee" means, with respect to a State, an individual enrolled in the State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) or a waiver of that plan.

(8) REACH.—The term "reach" means, with respect to an individual, to inform the individual of potential eligibility for a covered program and to provide the individual with information about the covered program, as described in subsection (e).

(9) SNAP PARTICIPANT.—The term "SNAP participant" means an individual who is a member of a household that participates in the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

(10) STATE.—The term "State" means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each Indian Tribe.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish a competitive program to make

grants available to States to inform covered individuals of potential eligibility for a covered program.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may only award a grant under this section to a State that submits an application at such time, in such form, and with such information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(2) MATTERS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED.—An application submitted by a State under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of covered individuals in the State;

(B) a plan for the activities that the State will conduct using grant funds, including a list of each agency within the State that will assist in carrying out those activities; and

(C) an estimate of the percentage of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in the State who will be reached by those activities.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) MINIMUM OF 5 STATES.—The Commission shall award grants under this section to not fewer than 5 States.

(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall give favorable consideration—

(A) to States that have higher numbers of covered individuals; and

(B) to States proposing, in the plans submitted under subsection (c)(2)(B), to conduct activities that have the potential to reach higher percentages of eligible-but-not-enrolled individuals in those States, as determined by the Commission, taking into consideration the estimates submitted under subsection (c)(2)(C).

(3) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Commission shall, to the maximum extent practicable, select States from different geographic regions of the United States.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this section shall use grant funds, in accordance with the plan included in the application of the State under subsection (c)(2)(B), to—

(A) inform covered individuals and organizations or agencies that serve those individuals, as the case may be under the terms of the grant awarded to the State, of potential eligibility for a covered program;

(B) provide those covered individuals with information about covered programs, including—

- (i) how to apply for a covered program; and
- (ii) a description of the prohibition on more than 1 subscriber in each household receiving a service provided under a covered program; and

(C) partner with nonprofit and community-based organizations to provide those covered individuals with assistance applying for a covered program and information about product and technology choices.

(2) MULTIPLE STATE AGENCIES.—A State that receives a grant under this section may provide grant funds to 1 or more agencies located within the State, as identified under subsection (c)(2)(B), to carry out the activities under the grant.

(f) OUTREACH TO STATES REGARDING GRANT PROGRAM.—Before accepting applications for the grant program established under this section, the Commission shall conduct outreach to States to ensure that States are aware of the grant program and how to apply for a grant under the grant program.

(g) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.

(h) ENFORCEMENT.—A violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et

seq.) or a regulation promulgated under such Act. The Commission shall enforce this section and the regulations promulgated under this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(i) EXEMPTIONS.—

(1) CERTAIN RULEMAKING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 553 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to a regulation promulgated under this section or a rulemaking proceeding to promulgate such a regulation.

(2) PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT REQUIREMENTS.—A collection of information conducted or sponsored under the regulations required under this section shall not constitute a collection of information for the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”).

(j) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after establishing the grant program under this section, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report evaluating the effectiveness of the grant program.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of individuals notified of covered program eligibility by States receiving grants under this section;

(B) the number of new applicants to a covered program from States receiving grants under this section, including the number of those applicants who enrolled in a covered program; and

(C) the cost-effectiveness of the grant program established under this section.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for the first 5 full fiscal years beginning after the establishment of the grant program under this section.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO STATES TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL LIFELINE ELIGIBILITY VERIFIER.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a State that, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, submits to the Commission an application for a grant under this section containing such information as the Commission may require.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish a program to provide a grant, from amounts appropriated under subsection (e), to each eligible entity for the purpose described in subsection (c).

(c) PURPOSE.—The Commission shall make a grant to each eligible entity for the purpose of establishing, renewing, reestablishing, or maintaining or amending a connection between the databases of the eligible entity that contain information concerning the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under a program administered by the eligible entity (including any benefit provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)) and the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier so that the receipt by a household, or a member of a household, of benefits under the benefits program—

(1) is reflected in the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier; and

(2) can be used to verify eligibility for—

(A) the Lifeline program established under subpart E, part 54, of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; and

(B) the Affordable Connectivity Program established under section 904(b) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (47 U.S.C. 1752(b)), or any successor program.

(d) DISBURSEMENT OF GRANT FUNDS.—Not later than 120 days after the date on which the Commission establishes the program under subsection (b), funds provided under each grant made under such subsection shall be disbursed to the eligible entity receiving such grant.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 395—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE MONTAGNARD INDIGENOUS TRIBESPEOPLE OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM TO THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, AND CONDEMNING THE ONGOING VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

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

S. RES. 395

Whereas the Montagnards are an indigenous tribespeople living in Vietnam's Central Highlands region;

Whereas the Montagnards were driven into the mountains by invading Vietnamese and Cambodians in the 9th century;

Whereas French Roman Catholic missionaries converted many of the Montagnards in the 19th century and American Protestant missionaries subsequently converted many to various Protestant denominations;

Whereas, during the 1960s, the United States Mission in Saigon, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and United States Army Special Forces, also known as the Green Berets, trained the Montagnards in unconventional warfare;

Whereas an estimated 61,000 Montagnards, out of an estimated population of 1,000,000, fought alongside the United States and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces against the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong;

Whereas the Central Intelligence Agency, United States Special Forces, and the Montagnards cooperated on the Village Defense Program, a forerunner to the War's Strategic Hamlet Program, and an estimated 43,000 Montagnards were organized into “Civilian Irregular Defense Groups” (CIDGs) to provide protection for the areas around the CIDGs' operational bases;

Whereas, at its peak, the CIDGs had approximately 50 operational bases, with each base containing a contingent of two United States Army officers and ten enlisted men, and an ARVN unit of the same size, and each base trained 200 to 700 Montagnards, or “strikers”;

Whereas another 18,000 Montagnards were reportedly enlisted into mobile strike forces,

and various historical accounts describe a strong bond between the United States Special Forces and the Montagnards, in contrast to Vietnamese Special Forces and ARVN troops;

Whereas the lives of thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces were saved as a result of the heroic actions of the Montagnards, who fought loyally and bravely alongside United States Special Forces in the Vietnam War;

Whereas, after the fall of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975, thousands of Montagnards fled across the border into Cambodia to escape persecution;

Whereas the government of the reunified Vietnamese nation, renamed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, deeply distrusted the Montagnards who had sided with the United States and ARVN forces and subjected them to imprisonment and various forms of discrimination and oppression after the Vietnam War ended;

Whereas, after the Vietnam War, the United States Government resettled large numbers of Montagnards, mostly in North Carolina, and an estimated several thousand Montagnards currently reside in North Carolina, which is the largest population of Montagnards residing outside of Vietnam;

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Vietnam currently remains a one-party state, ruled and controlled by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), which continues to restrict freedom of religion or belief, movement, land and property rights, and political expression;

Whereas officials of the Government of Vietnam have forced Montagnards to publicly denounce their religion, arrested and imprisoned Montagnards who organized public demonstrations, and mistreated Montagnards in detention;

Whereas some Montagnard Americans have complained that Vietnamese authorities either have prevented them from visiting Vietnam or have subjected them to interrogation upon re-entering the country on visits;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices (in this resolution referred to as the “2022 Human Rights Report”) documents that not all members of ethnic minorities were able to engage in decisions affecting their lands, cultures, and traditions, even though ethnic minority group members constituted a sizeable percentage of the population in certain areas, including the Northwest, the Central Highlands, and portions of the Mekong Delta;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report states that although Vietnamese law prohibits violence and discrimination against ethnic minorities, such social discrimination was longstanding and persistent, including in the Central Highlands;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report documents that Vietnamese authorities monitored, harassed, and intimidated members of certain ethnic minority groups, particularly ethnoreligious minorities in the Central and Northwest Highland;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report documents that Vietnamese authorities used national security laws to impose lengthy prison sentences on members of ethnic minorities for their connections to overseas organizations the government claimed espoused separatist aims;

Whereas the 2022 Human Rights Report documents that land expropriation and preferential government treatment for non-indigenous residents in these areas was common, despite the government previously allocating land to ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands;

Whereas the Department of State's 2022 International Religious Freedom Report documents that Montagnard Christians reported