

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2365, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to authorize funds for certain employment and training activities, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2608

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2608, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2636

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2636, a bill to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to improve that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2701

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2701, a bill to address the homelessness and housing crises, to move toward the goal of providing for a home for all Americans, and for other purposes.

S. 2731

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2731, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2829

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2829, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a

remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 2884

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2884, a bill to delay the implementation of a rule relating to the importation of sheep and goats and products derived from sheep and goats, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2897

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2897, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 3020

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3020, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the charitable mileage rate with the business travel rate.

S. 3048

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3048, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to prohibit an employer from recovering any health care premium paid by the employer for an employee if the employee fails to return to work due to the birth of a child, and for other purposes.

S. 3064

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 3064, a bill to limit funding to the United Nations until the Islamic Republic of Iran has been expelled and investigated for violations of the Genocide Convention, and for other purposes.

S. 3168

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3168, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 47, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice relating to "Office of the Attorney General; Home Confinement Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act".

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 408, a resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 434

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 434, a resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Monroe Doctrine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3169. A bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish university centers to encourage certain economic development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the University Centers for Growth, Development, and Prosperity Act, which I reintroduced today.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration created the University Center Program to allow institutions of higher education and consortia to establish and maintain university centers, with the understanding that our higher education institutions play a critical role in our Nation's economic growth.

University centers are Federal partnerships that leverage the assets of higher learning institutions to strengthen regional economic growth by promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation. They encourage economic development in economically distressed regions, which

helps spur job growth, high-skilled regional talent pools, and business expansion.

Despite EDA's important work, many communities across the country have yet to benefit from the Agency's programs, including smaller communities, communities of color, and rural areas experiencing higher rates of poverty.

Despite being one of EDA's most successful economic development initiatives, the current University Center Program is not officially authorized by Congress and is currently administered under EDA's Technical Assistance Program. That is why I am proud to reintroduce legislation that would codify and expand the University Center Program, leverage more resources for minority-serving institutions, and support a greater diversity of innovation and entrepreneurship in their communities.

California has several thriving institutions, including Cal State Chico, Cal State Bakersfield, and University of Southern California, that will be able to scale their impact as a result of these new resources. By prioritizing the establishment of new university centers at colleges and universities that serve significant populations of underserved students, we can further strengthen regional economies and help close the racial wealth gap.

Specifically, the bill establishes an EDA University Center Program to help universities collaborate with economic development districts, trade adjustment assistance centers, and other economic development technical assistance and service providers to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategies and other economic development planning at the local, regional, and State levels, with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, and workforce development.

It also prioritizes the participation of minority-serving institutions as part of the University Center Program. Minority-serving institutions provide incredible opportunities for so many low-income and first-generation students. I am proud that my State of California is home to 174 Hispanic-serving institutions and 51 emerging Hispanic-serving institutions, the highest amount in the country.

As a Senator representing one of the most diverse States in the country, I am eager to work with my colleagues to ensure that we improve the equity of EDA programming and help increase the participation of minority-serving institutions.

As the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works continues to draft an EDA reauthorization bill, I urge them to include this legislation to expand and improve the University Center Program.

I want to thank Congressman PETE AGUILAR for introducing this bill with me, and I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this program that benefits almost every State.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 442—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH”

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 442

Whereas country music, a uniquely American sound, echoes from the backroads of the United States to the streets of Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas Bristol, straddling the Tennessee and Virginia state line, is recognized as the “birthplace of country music”;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry, the most famous stage in country music, has been called the “home of American music”;

Whereas the Ryman Auditorium, the original home of the Grand Ole Opry, has been described as “the Mother Church of country music”;

Whereas country music reminds every American of the importance of faith, family, freedom, hope, opportunity, and patriotism;

Whereas country music has influenced numerous other genres of music;

Whereas country music is an incredibly diverse genre, appealing to Americans from all walks of life;

Whereas country music has millions of fans all across the United States;

Whereas the country music industry contributes billions of dollars in revenue each year to the economy of the United States;

Whereas the Country Music Association first celebrated “National Country Music Month” in 1964; and

Whereas President Nixon issued a presidential proclamation in 1970 to acknowledge October as “National Country Music Month”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2023 as “National Country Music Month”;

(2) honors the contributions of country music to the story and history of the United States; and

(3) encourages the American people to observe “National Country Music Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 443—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 443

Whereas farm to school programs of varying scale operate in nearly 67,369 schools across the United States;

Whereas farm to school programs connect schools and local farms in order to—

(1) serve nutritious meals in school cafeterias; and

(2) support local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen;

Whereas farm to school programs include experiential education components that can lead to permanent improvements in the diets of children, both in school and at home;

Whereas farm to school programs facilitate the purchase of local food for school meals;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit small and mid-sized agricultural pro-

ducers by providing access to consistent markets;

Whereas farm to school programs can be particularly important for beginning or socially disadvantaged farmers, as schools provide a consistent and secure customer base;

Whereas farm to school programs can benefit local economies;

Whereas, for every \$1 spent on local foods in schools, up to an additional \$2 circulates in the local economy;

Whereas data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that only 7 percent of children consume the recommended amount of vegetables;

Whereas communities with high levels of poverty have less access to fresh fruits and vegetables than higher income communities;

Whereas the increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables is 1 of 6 major strategies to prevent and control obesity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas studies have demonstrated that children in schools with an active farm to school program increase their average consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by 1 or more servings per day;

Whereas farm to school programs—

(1) are popular among children;

(2) can increase interest in school meal programs; and

(3) can decrease food waste; and

Whereas October 2023 would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Farm to School Month”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2023 as “National Farm to School Month”;

(2) recognizes support for policy improvements to farm to school programs in legislation reauthorizing child nutrition programs;

(3) encourages schools, early care and education organizations, and local educational agencies to use local farm products in meals; and

(4) encourages schools, early care and education organizations, farmers and farm groups, local businesses, nonprofit institutions, churches, cities, State governments, and other local groups to raise awareness of farm to school efforts in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 444—PROVIDING FOR THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. REED submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 444

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY NOMINATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “military nomination” means a nomination to a position in, or promotion of an individual serving in a position in, an Armed Force.

(b) MOTION TO PROCEED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during the 118th Congress, it shall be in order for the Majority Leader, or a designee, to make a single motion in Executive Session, or a single motion in Legislative Session to proceed to Executive Session, to the en bloc consideration of 2 or more military nominations that, at the time of the motion—

(i) are pending on the Executive calendar or are on the Secretary's Desk;