

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE, THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE, AND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY

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

S. RES. 455

Whereas 2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (referred to in this preamble as “CBYX”);

Whereas CBYX was established by Congress to allow participants and communities to benefit from mutual understanding and the sharing of ideas;

Whereas CBYX participants represent the spirit, values, and diversity of the United States on an international stage;

Whereas CBYX provides high school students and young professionals in the United States and Germany with a valuable opportunity to live and study in the other country for an academic year;

Whereas, for the youth of the United States and Germany, CBYX strengthens ties between them, improves their career skills through formal study and work experience, and expands their perspectives and awareness of the culture, society, history, and politics of each other;

Whereas maintaining a strong, mutually beneficial relationship with Germany, a key ally, remains a top priority for the United States;

Whereas, since 1983, more than 29,000 students have participated in CBYX;

Whereas 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Future Leaders Exchange (referred to in this preamble as “FLEX”);

Whereas FLEX was established by Congress after the fall of the Soviet Union to allow students from former Eastern Bloc nations to live and study in the United States;

Whereas FLEX students gain leadership skills, learn about the society and values of the United States, and teach the people of the United States about their home countries and cultures;

Whereas FLEX students perform community service in their United States communities and act as ambassadors of their home countries;

Whereas FLEX produces world leaders, including Rustem Umierov, the current Minister of Defense of Ukraine, who go on to promote democratic values on the world stage;

Whereas the best way to ensure long-lasting peace and mutual understanding between the United States and the countries of Eurasia is to enable young people to learn about the United States and the people of the United States firsthand;

Whereas, since 1993, more than 30,000 students from more than 22 countries have participated in FLEX;

Whereas 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (referred to in this preamble as “YES”);

Whereas YES was established by Congress after the events of September 11, 2001, to build bridges between citizens of the United States and countries around the world, particularly those with significant Muslim populations;

Whereas YES participants from abroad live with volunteer host families in the United States, attend high school, and engage in

community service and civic education activities;

Whereas YES offers participants from the United States full scholarships for 1 academic year to live and study abroad in selected YES countries;

Whereas, since 2003, approximately 15,000 students from more than 45 countries have participated in YES and YES Abroad; and

Whereas CBYX, FLEX, and YES advance key foreign policy goals by empowering young people around the globe, supporting civil society and democratic ideals, and promoting mutual understanding between the United States and other countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the 40th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange;

(B) the 30th anniversary of the Future Leaders Exchange; and

(C) the 20th anniversary of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study;

(2) recognizes and congratulates all past and present participants of the programs described in paragraph (1); and

(3) encourages continued support by Congress and the President for the important mission of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, which is to design, implement, and oversee educational, professional, and cultural exchange programs and public engagement activities to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries;

(4) supports the use of international exchange programs to build future leaders who can meet global challenges that promote mutual understanding, cross-cultural networks, inclusive leadership development, and civic education; and

(5) encourages families and high schools in the United States to consider opportunities to host youth exchange programs administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, including the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, the Future Leaders Exchange, and the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study, to help build mutual understanding in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 456—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 456

Whereas equality of opportunity for all people is one of the noblest aspirations of the United States;

Whereas data on the benefits of higher education demonstrates that, in spite of ongoing barriers to access and student success, colleges and universities can still provide pathways to economic opportunity;

Whereas the United States built a thriving middle class by funding colleges and universities to provide avenues to individual economic opportunity and shared economic growth;

Whereas higher education enhances the economic mobility of individuals, which is evidenced by—

(1) a finding by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce that the median lifetime earnings of holders of an associate degree are uniformly greater than the median lifetime earnings of holders of solely a high school diploma; and

(2) a finding by the Pew Economic Mobility Project that, for an individual born in the lowest income quintile, obtaining a 4-year degree or a higher degree is associated with—

(A) an approximately 80-percent difference in the probability of that individual earning an income outside the lowest income quintile; and

(B) a threefold difference in the probability of that individual going on to earn an income in the highest income quintile;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that—

(1) the unemployment rate of recent high school graduates not enrolled in college was 18.3 percent, nearly 5 times higher than the overall unemployment rate of the United States;

(2) approximately 38 percent of 2022 high school graduates did not immediately matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester, about the same percent as in 2021, and a 4.2 percentage point decline since 2012 in the rate of immediate matriculation of new high school graduates to an institution of higher education;

(3) the decline described in paragraph (2) was most notable among Hispanic and male high school graduates, who faced 12 percentage point and 6 percentage point declines, respectively, from 2012 in immediate matriculation to an institution of higher education; and

(4) the unemployment rate of adults with a bachelor's degree is nearly half that of the unemployment rate of adults whose highest credential is a high school degree;

Whereas the National Student Clearinghouse reports that overall undergraduate enrollment in colleges and universities continues to decline;

Whereas the complexity of financial aid systems and rising college costs can serve as additional deterrents or barriers for students and families as they assess the viability of higher education programs as a postsecondary option;

Whereas many students struggle to identify and compare postsecondary options due to—

(1) difficulties accessing school counseling services, which is evidenced by an estimation of the American School Counselor Association that the average student-to-counselor ratio in the United States is 408 to 1;

(2) an absence of reliable programmatic and institutional outcome data; and

(3) a lack of comparable and understandable college financial aid offers;

Whereas, in addition to expanding outreach and support to recent high school graduates, colleges and universities must also expand outreach and support to all undergraduate students;

Whereas applications for State-based financial aid are available in many States for students who do not qualify for Federal student aid; and

Whereas the data on the benefits of higher education underscores and reinforces the value of ensuring that all individuals, including students enrolled in high school and working adults—

(1) understand their postsecondary options;

(2) understand college financing opportunities; and

(3) have support to navigate the college application and financial aid processes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2023 as “National College Application Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) evaluate options for pursuing higher education;

(B) submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or an appropriate application for State-based financial aid in order to receive college financing opportunities; and

(C) support every student, regardless of the background, age, or resources of the student, in obtaining the skills and knowledge needed to thrive;

(3) supports efforts to better assist low-income and first-generation college students throughout the financial aid and college application process;

(4) urges public officials, educators, parents, students, and communities in the United States to observe National College Application Month with appropriate activities and programs designed to encourage students to consider, research, and apply to college and for financial aid; and

(5) commends teachers, counselors, mentors, and parents who support students throughout the college application process, as well as the organizations and institutions partnering to eliminate barriers to higher education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 457—HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL FARMER OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND THE MARINES AND SAILORS OF 1ST PLATOON, COMPANY G, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT

Mr. HAWLEY submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 457

Whereas Captain Samuel Farmer, from the State of Missouri, a dedicated and courageous officer of the United States Marine Corps, faithfully served the United States for more than 4 years;

Whereas Captain Samuel Farmer displayed an unwavering devotion to duty throughout his military career;

Whereas then-First Lieutenant Samuel Farmer demonstrated outstanding bravery and selflessness while commanding the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment during Operation Allies Refuge in Afghanistan;

Whereas then-First Lieutenant Samuel Farmer led the Marines and sailors under his command in assisting and protecting civilians under deteriorating conditions at Abbey Gate during the Kabul airlift;

Whereas the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, in acts of noble humanitarianism, provided their own food and water to women and children attempting to flee Kabul;

Whereas the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment displayed heroism in combat with the enemy at Abbey Gate, including the critically wounded Marines who refused treatment in order to save fallen comrades;

Whereas 9 members of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment were killed in action and 14 members were wounded at Abbey Gate;

Whereas then-First Lieutenant Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service; and

Whereas Captain Samuel Farmer honorably completed his service in the United States Marine Corps on October 30, 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends its deepest gratitude to Captain Samuel Farmer for his dedicated service to the United States;

(2) recognizes the sacrifices that Captain Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment made for the United States;

(3) commends the heroism shown by Captain Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors under his command in the line of duty; and

(4) honors Captain Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment for their devotion to duty and decisive leadership in the face of enemy action at Abbey Gate in Kabul, Afghanistan.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1363. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 670, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1363. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 670, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATORS MAINTAIN PURPOSEFUL AWARENESS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING TRAUMA PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program (referred to in this Act as the “IMPACTT Program”).

(b) **FUNCTIONS.**—The IMPACTT Program shall—

(1) provide outreach and training to Homeland Security Investigations employees who have been exposed to various forms of trauma in working with victims of human trafficking, including—

(A) self-awareness training for the relevant employees on recognizing the signs of burnout, compassion fatigue, critical incident stress, traumatic stress, posttraumatic stress, secondary traumatic stress, and vicarious trauma;

(B) training material that—

(i) provides mechanisms for self-care and resilience and notification of resources that are available through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, such as the Employee Assistance Program, the Peer Support Program, the Chaplain Program, and other relevant accredited programs that are available; and

(ii) provides examples of potential resources that are available outside of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which may include, faith-based and community-based resources; and

(C) provide additional training to first line supervisors of relevant employees on recognizing the signs referred to in subparagraph (A) and the appropriate responses to employees exhibiting such signs;

(2) include training modules that are carried out by—

(A) licensed and accredited clinicians who—

(i) have been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

(ii) may have experience working with faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, counseling programs, or other social service programs; and

(B) additional subject matter experts who are available; and

(3) be overseen and coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking to ensure that—

(A) appropriate program materials are distributed;

(B) training is offered to all relevant employees; and

(C) any needed travel and equipment is provided.

SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle D of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 447. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **FORENSIC INTERVIEW SPECIALIST.**—The term ‘forensic interview specialist’ is an interview professional who has specialized experience and training in conducting trauma-informed forensic interviews with victims of crime.

“(2) **VICTIM.**—The term ‘victim’ has the meaning given such term in section 503(e)(2) of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20141(e)(2)).

“(3) **VICTIM ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST.**—The term ‘victim assistance specialist’ is a victim assistance professional who—

“(A) has experience working with victims of crime in a service capacity;

“(B) has been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

“(C) may have experience working with local government and community-based organizations, including victim advocacy centers, child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, faith-based organizations, and other social service programs.

“(b) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Victim Assistance Program.

“(c) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Victim Assistance Program shall—

“(1) provide oversight, guidance, training, travel, equipment, and coordination to Homeland Security Investigations victim assistance personnel throughout the United States;

“(2) recruit not fewer than—

“(A) 1 forensic interview specialist and 1 victim assistance specialist for each Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge office;

“(B) 1 victim assistance specialist for—

“(i) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a human trafficking task force; and

“(ii) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a child sexual exploitation task force;

“(3) support Homeland Security Investigations regional attaché offices, to the extent necessary;