

Iran ceases to attempt to assassinate United States officials, other United States citizens, and Iranian nationals residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3063

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3063, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3152

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3152, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3214

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3214, a bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) 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.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) 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. 454

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 454, a resolution designating November 8, 2023, as "National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Day" and celebrating the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in education and the workforce in the United States.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3297. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023, along with my colleague from Michigan, Senator PETERS. Our bill would expand Medicare beneficiaries' access to medical nutrition therapy, or MNT, which is a cost-effective component of treatment for obesity, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and other chronic conditions.

At a time when the increased prevalence of diet-related chronic conditions is contributing to poor health outcomes and growing healthcare expenditures, increasing access to MNT should be part of the strategy to improve disease management and prevention for America's seniors. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act would make two important changes to support patients, improve health outcomes, and reduce unnecessary healthcare costs.

First, it would expand Medicare Part B coverage of outpatient medical nutrition therapy services to a number of currently uncovered diseases or conditions—including prediabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, HIV/AIDS, gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease, and cardiovascular disease. Currently, Medicare Part B only covers outpatient MNT for diabetes, renal disease, and post-kidney transplant.

Second, the bill would allow more types of providers—including nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, and psychologists—to refer patients to MNT. This is especially critical for a rural State like Maine, where a NP or PA may be one's trusted primary care provider.

MNT counseling is provided by registered dietitian nutritionists, RDNs, as part of a collaborative healthcare team. It is evidenced-based and proven

to positively affect weight, blood pressure, blood lipids, and blood sugar control. Nutritional counseling by RDNs is recommended by the National Lipid Association to promote long-term adherence to an individualized, heart-healthy diet. Through MNT, individuals benefit from in-depth, individualized nutrition assessments. Follow up visits help reinforce important behavior and lifestyle changes and increase compliance.

Older Americans deserve improved access to this cost-effective medical treatment, but many older adults are missing out under the current Medicare policy. Marcy Kyle, a RDN from Rockport, ME, has seen many patients denied access to medically necessary MNT. One of her patients with prediabetes was referred by his primary care physician for MNT at age 64. At that time, his private insurance covered the service, and he booked the first available appointment the following week. That same week, this patient turned 65 and transitioned onto Medicare. You can imagine his surprise upon arriving for his appointment and learning that MNT would not be covered.

Another unfortunate example from Maine was a patient with a new celiac disease diagnosis complicated by severe weight loss. His private insurance covered MNT as celiac disease is a controllable disease with proper nutrition. But when transitioning from private insurance to Medicare, this patient, too, lost his access to MNT. The saddest situation this RDN has confronted is when an older cancer patient experiences such side effects from cancer treatment as severe weight loss or nausea, which could be prevented with MNT. As with prediabetes and celiac disease, however, Medicare does not cover MNT for cancer patients. This truly is a lost opportunity since we know early treatment with MNT can prevent future and more serious health complications and chronic conditions in older adults. These conditions should be covered.

In addition to leading to confusion and potential delays in care for patients seeking needed healthcare services, we must also consider the staggering economic impact of chronic diseases. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 90 percent of the \$3.8 trillion that the United States spends annually on healthcare goes to the treatment of people with chronic diseases and mental health conditions. Preventing chronic diseases or managing symptoms when prevention is not possible is one way to reduce these costs. This is particularly important for the Medicare Program, as more than two-thirds of seniors on Medicare live with multiple chronic conditions. As one registered dietitian nutritionist in Maine told me, "We all know a dollar spent on prevention saves many health care dollars in the long run and is the right thing to do for our seniors at a time when they have limited budgets."

MNT can help prevent chronic disease, such as type 2 diabetes. It can better control celiac and other gastrointestinal ailments. It can improve outcomes and the quality of life for those with cancer and other devastating diagnoses. The current Medicare restrictions on medical nutrition therapy coverage can be detrimental for older adults at a critical juncture in their journey to better health and should be changed.

The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2023 is supported by more than 40 expert national organizations, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Diabetes Association, the Endocrine Society, and UsAgainstAlzheimer's.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation to improve access to cost-effective medical treatment for Medicare patients with chronic diseases.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 462—EMPHASIZING THE URGENCY OF RESPONDING TO ATTACKS IN ISRAEL AND THE GREATER REGION FROM THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND ITS PROXIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. THUNE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 462

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has provided financing, training, and other forms of support to Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and other proxies;

Whereas the current leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, has publicly confirmed and lauded the support the group receives from the Islamic Republic of Iran, stating “I give thanks to those who provided funds and weaponry to the courageous resistance, the Islamic Republic of Iran, [which] has not skimped in extending funds, weaponry, and technology to the resistance”;

Whereas, on October 8, 1997, the Secretary of State designated Hamas and Hezbollah foreign terrorist organizations in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

Whereas, on September 20, 2023, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that “we can forge a historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia” and Prime Minister and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman stated that “[e]very day we get closer” to normalizing relations with Israel;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, in part to derail the normalization process, Hamas launched an unprovoked attack against the State of Israel, brutally murdering over 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, while injuring thousands more;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas committed war crimes by taking hundreds of innocent civilians hostage, including babies, children, women, elderly, and Holocaust sur-

vivors, and has proceeded to place innocent civilians around key locations as human shields;

Whereas, on October 8, 2023, Israel officially declared war on Hamas;

Whereas, on October 10, 2023, the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group arrived in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea to deter additional actors, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, the IRGC, and other proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran from escalating tensions in the region;

Whereas, on October 14, 2023, the Department of Defense announced the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group would be repositioned to join the USS Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas, on October 19, 2023, the USS Carney intercepted missiles and drones that were launched by Iranian-backed Houthi militias towards Israel;

Whereas, on October 25, 2023, it was reported that in the weeks leading up to Hamas' attack on Israel, roughly 500 Hamas and PIJ militants received specialized combat training in the Islamic Republic of Iran from officers of the Quds Force, the foreign-operations arm of the IRGC;

Whereas United States troops and personnel stationed in Iraq and Syria have come under rocket and drone attack numerous times since October 7, 2023, resulting in the injury of over 50 servicemembers;

Whereas, on October 26, 2023, in response to attacks against United States troops and personnel in Iraq and Syria, the President of the United States authorized precision strikes on two facilities in eastern Syria used by the IRGC and affiliated groups;

Whereas, on November 9, 2023, the President of the United States authorized a precision strike on an IRGC weapons storage site in Syria to clearly communicate that there should be no escalation of hostilities in the region and that the President has no higher priority than the safety of United States troops and personnel;

Whereas, on November 12, 2023, the United States conducted precision strikes against a training facility and a safe house in eastern Syria used by the IRGC and affiliated groups;

Whereas Hezbollah reportedly has at least 150,000 missiles, some of which are precision-guided, that could be launched at Israel without warning, overwhelm the Iron Dome air defense system, and greatly expand the conflict;

Whereas Hamas, through its actions, has proven its goal is to destroy Israel, eradicate the Jewish population, undermine peace and normalization efforts in the region, cause severe economic decline and political unrest in the region, and curtail future investments that would allow Israel and other Middle Eastern states to grow and prosper; and

Whereas the Biden Administration must continue to clearly communicate to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the IRGC, that further attacks on Israel, the United States, or partners and allies by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, or other proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are unacceptable: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the President's efforts to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IRGC, Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, and other proxies from expanding the ongoing conflict, and recognizes deterrence is most credible when the President keeps all options on the table, including the use of military force in accordance with constitutional processes;

(2) recognizes Israel's right to self-defense and its operations to ensure Hamas can never again terrorize innocent Israelis and Palestinians;

(3) encourages the President to work to secure the safe release and return of all hostages held by Hamas;

(4) commends the President's decision to position military and diplomatic assets in the region to deter escalation of the conflict by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the IRGC, Hamas, Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, PIJ, and other proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Iraq or Syria;

(5) recognizes that all responsible nations agree that Hamas is a terrorist organization that must be fought, dismantled and prevented from having the capacity to further terrorize Israel and the region; and

(6) urges the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Israel, with the support of the United States, to continue diplomatic negotiations to normalize relations and establish lasting peace, prosperity, and stability in the Middle East.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 463—RECOGNIZING OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS FOR SUPPORTING VETERANS AND RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT IMPORTANT COUNTY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO HELP VETERANS TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. ROSEN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 463

Whereas the United States owes an immeasurable debt of gratitude to the brave veterans who have served in the Armed Forces for safeguarding our liberties and upholding the principles upon which the United States was founded;

Whereas veterans often lack the resources needed to transition to civilian life;

Whereas the National Association of Counties, in collaboration with the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, established the Operation Green Light for Veterans campaign in November of 2022;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans encourages counties to illuminate their buildings with green lights from November 6 to November 12, 2023, to symbolize unwavering support, appreciation, and recognition of veterans;

Whereas this vibrant and symbolic gesture serves as a visible reminder to veterans that their service is seen, valued, and honored by their local communities;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans encourages counties to use press releases, community events, and social media to raise awareness about important county resources available to help veterans transition to civilian life, including mental health resources, employment and training programs, housing assistance, voter registration, peer-to-peer support services, and assistance from county veteran service officers on how to access earned Federal benefits;

Whereas the National Association of Counties encourages counties to adopt resolutions declaring their commitment to Operation Green Light for Veterans to reinforce the collective dedication of counties to the well-being of veterans;

Whereas Operation Green Light for Veterans encourages counties to amplify the effect of their participation and encourage other counties to participate by collaborating with Members of Congress, local news media, and social media platforms;