

exploit our absence from key ocean governance diplomatic forums, and ultimately help protect our nation's rights and interests in this critical sphere of operations", in response to advance policy questions on July 23, 2023, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, General Gregory M. Guillot, further stated in regard to United States ratification of the UNCLOS that "I believe accession to the Law of the Sea Convention would help the U.S. protect its interests in the Arctic. Accession would demonstrate our commitment to a rules-based order, ensure our best interests are represented during international negotiations regarding territorial disputes and challenges to longstanding maritime customs and practices, and improve our ability to advocate for our ocean governance interests around the globe, including in the Arctic. Engagement through UNCLOS is particularly critical today as multiple nations vie for access and control in the Arctic and seek to modify international norms to accommodate expansionist ambitions around the globe in general, and in the Arctic in particular. Finally, accession would preclude Russia and China from exploiting U.S. absence in forums", in response to advance policy questions on July 23, 2023, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Secretary of the Navy, Honorable Carlos Del Toro, stated "accession would 'lock in' the customary rights and freedoms reflected in the UNCLOS, and would give the U.S. a seat at the table to set the course for future law of the sea discussions on a coequal level with member states like China and Russia. China continues a more aggressive posture in the South China Sea. As widely reported, Chinese warships, law enforcement vessels, and other PRC-flagged vessels have failed to respect the rights of maritime nations under the Convention. As a party to the Convention, U.S. objections to these violations would have more force and credibility, and would enhance its ability to respond to excessive maritime claims, land reclamation, and militarization efforts by China in the South China Sea", in response to a question for the record from Senator Hirono on July 13, 2021;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command, retired Admiral Philip S. Davidson, stated that "our accession to the UNCLOS would help our position legally across the globe and would do nothing to limit our military operations in the manner in which we're conducting them now", on April 17, 2018, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, retired Admiral Harry B. Harris, stated "I believe that UNCLOS gives Russia the potential to, quote, unquote 'own' almost half of the Arctic Circle, and we will not have that opportunity because of, we're not a signatory to UNCLOS", on March 15, 2018, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, retired Admiral Harry B. Harris, stated "I think that by not signing onto it that we lose the credibility for the very same thing that we're arguing for", and "which is the following—accepting rules and norms in the international arena. The United States is a beacon—we're a beacon on a hill but I think that light is brighter if we sign on to UNCLOS", on February 23, 2016, at a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retired General Joseph F. Dunford, stated that "by remaining outside

the Convention, the United States remains in scarce company with Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, and Syria" and "by failing to join the Convention, some countries may come to doubt our commitment to act in accordance with international law", on July 9, 2015, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomas J. Donahue, stated that "we support joining the Convention because it is in our national interest—both in our national security and our economic interests", "becoming a party to the Treaty benefits the U.S. economically by providing American companies the legal certainty and stability they need to hire and invest", and "companies will be hesitant to take on the investment risk and cost to explore and develop the resources of the sea—particularly on the extended continental shelf (ECS)—without the legal certainty and stability accession to LOS provides", on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas the past President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomas J. Donahue, further stated that "the benefits of joining cut across many important industries including telecommunications, mining, shipping, and oil and natural gas", and "joining the Convention will provide the U.S. a critical voice on maritime issues—from mineral claims in the Arctic to how International Seabed Authority (ISA) funds are distributed", on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, retired Admiral Paul Zukunft, stated on February 12, 2016, "With the receding of the icepack, the Arctic Ocean has become the focus of international interest.", "All Arctic states agree that the Law of the Sea Convention is the governing legal regime for the Arctic Ocean . . . yet, we remain the only Arctic nation that has not ratified the very instrument that provides this accepted legal framework governing the Arctic Ocean and its seabed.", and "Ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention supports our economic interests, environmental protection, and safety of life at sea, especially in the Arctic Ocean.";

Whereas the past Chief of Naval Operations, retired Admiral Michael Gilday, stated that "acceding to the Convention would strengthen our strategic position on issues pertaining to the [South China Sea and the Arctic]. The United States would have increased credibility when responding to excessive maritime claims and militarization efforts in the South China Sea. With respect to the Arctic, becoming a party to the Convention would allow the U.S. to position itself to safeguard access for the purposes of maritime traffic, resource exploitation, and other human activities, while ensuring other states comply with the law of the sea", in response to advance policy questions on July 30, 2019, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

Whereas the past United States Special Representative of State for the Arctic and former Commandant of the Coast Guard, retired Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., stated that "as a non-party to the Law of the Sea Convention, the U.S. is at a significant disadvantage relative to the other Arctic Ocean coastal States", "those States are parties to the Convention, and are well along the path to obtaining legal certainty and international recognition of their Arctic extended continental shelf", and "becoming a Party to the Law of the Sea Convention would allow the United States to fully secure its rights to the continental shelf off the coast

of Alaska, which is likely to extend out to more than 600 nautical miles", on December 10, 2014, before the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that it is in the national interest for the United States to become a formal signatory of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), done at Montego Bay December 10, 1982;

(2) urges the United States Senate to give its advice and consent to the ratification of the UNCLOS; and

(3) recommends the ratification of the UNCLOS remain a top priority for the Federal Government, the importance of which was most recently underscored by the strategic challenges the United States faces in the Indo-Pacific, the Arctic, and the Black Sea regions.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 467—RECOGNIZING THE FIRST COMMEMORATION OF THE ANTI-LGBTQ+ ATTACK THAT OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 19–20, 2022, AT CLUB Q, AN LGBTQ+ BAR IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 467

Whereas, on November 19–20, 2022, a mass shooting took place at Club Q, an LGBTQ+ bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas 5 innocent victims were killed, 17 community members were injured by gunshot wounds, and 32 other community members sustained injuries, including mental and emotional trauma from witnessing this violent event;

Whereas the 5 innocent victims killed in the shooting were—

- (1) Raymond Green Vance;
- (2) Ashley Paugh;
- (3) Daniel Aston;
- (4) Kelly Loving; and
- (5) Derrick Rump;

Whereas the State of Colorado came together for medical and funeral expenses for those affected by the shooting;

Whereas, at the time of the mass shooting, Club Q was 1 of only 3 dedicated LGBTQ+ safe spaces in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas the shooting brought further trauma and a feeling of loss of safety and security to members of the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas the perpetrator of the attack had a history of homicidal behavior and hatefully targeted the individuals at Club Q because of their affiliation with the LGBTQ+ community;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2022, there were more than 48,000 firearm-related deaths in the United States according to provisional mortality data;

Whereas LGBTQ+ people are more than twice as likely to be a victim of gun violence than their heterosexual peers;

Whereas transgender people are over 4 times more likely than cisgender people to experience violent victimization, including rape, sexual assault, and aggravated or simple assault;

Whereas at least 356 anti-LGBTQ+ incidents motivated by hate were reported from June 2022 to April 2023 in the United States;

Whereas a wave of hateful rhetoric and legislative efforts to restrict LGBTQ+ rights

and health care continues to sweep across the United States;

Whereas violence against LGBTQ+ people of the United States remains an evil and destructive form of identity-based hate that destroys lives and runs contrary to the values of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States commend the club patrons Richard M. Fierro, Drea Norman, and Petty Officer Thomas James, whose bravery in disarming the perpetrator undoubtedly saved countless lives;

Whereas the people of the United States commend the service of the Colorado Springs Police Department that responded to and investigated the shooting and the prosecution team from the District Attorney's Office of Colorado's Fourth Judicial District that worked to bring the perpetrator to justice;

Whereas Club Q plans to reopen at a new location, and local community organizations, the city of Colorado Springs, survivors, and victims' families are working together to establish a plan for a public memorial; and

Whereas the LGBTQ+ community of Colorado Springs, local social service organizations, and clinical partners are collaborating to open a new resource center to provide long term support for those impacted by the attack on Club Q, and the greater LGBTQ+ community: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 1 year remembrance of the anti-LGBTQ+ attack that occurred on November 19–20, 2022, at Club Q, an LGBTQ+ bar in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

(2) expresses continued solidarity and support to the survivors of the Club Q shooting, the Colorado Springs LGBTQ+ community, and the families, friends, and loved ones affected by the tragedy.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 468—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 26, 2023, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 468

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on roads and highways needs to drive in a safer manner in order to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves more than 15,000 lives each year;

Whereas the Senate wants all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and encourages motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is one of the busiest highway traffic days of the year: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms—

(i) to alert employee drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(ii) to publicize the importance of the day through use of Citizens Band radios and truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their members to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) the people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 26, 2023, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 469—COMMEMORATING AND CONGRATULATING THE LAS VEGAS ACES BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2023 WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 469

Whereas, on October 18, 2023, the professional women's basketball team the Las Vegas Aces (referred to in this resolution as the “Aces”) won the 2023 Women's National Basketball Association (referred to in this resolution as the “WNBA”) championship;

Whereas the Aces became the first back-to-back WNBA champions in 21 years;

Whereas the Aces defeated the New York Liberty in Game 4 of the 2023 WNBA Finals, winning the championship 3 games to 1;

Whereas the championship is the second for the Aces franchise and also marks the third major league professional sports championship in the history of the city of Las Vegas and the State of Nevada;

Whereas Aces head coach Becky Hammon led the team to the championship, becoming the first WNBA head coach to win back-to-back championships in 21 years and first head coach to win the title in her first 2 seasons;

Whereas Aces player A’ja Wilson was named—

(1) WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player, finishing Game 4 of the Finals with a game high 24 points in the 70–69 win to help clinch the championship for the Aces; and

(2) WNBA Defensive Player of the Year, her second consecutive Defensive Player of the Year honor;

Whereas Aces player Alysha Clark won the WNBA Sixth Player of the Year Award for being the league's most valuable player for her team coming off the bench as a substitute;

Whereas Aces players Kierstan Bell, Alaina Coates, Sydney Colson, Cayla George, Chelsea Gray, Candace Parker, Kelsey Plum, Kiah Stokes, Riquna Williams, and Jackie Young should be congratulated for their dedication, teamwork, and display of impressive athletic talent;

Whereas behind the Aces players is a team of coaches and support staff without whom those players could not have been successful;

Whereas Aces owner Mark Davis continues to lead professional team owners as a champion for women in sports, investing significantly in the Aces team, facilities, and staff, and advancing the game of basketball;

Whereas the Aces organization remains committed to enriching and impacting the Las Vegas community, actively participating in community efforts through partnerships with schools and community-based organizations; and

Whereas the Aces represent their loyal fans, the Las Vegas community, and the en-

tire State of Nevada with a commitment to excellence: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends and congratulates the Aces on winning the 2023 WNBA championship and completing a successful 2023 season;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the success of the Aces during the 2023 season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Aces owner Mark Davis;

(B) Aces President Nikki Fargas and General Manager Natalie Williams; and

(C) Aces Head Coach Becky Hammon.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 470—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 16TH, 2023, AS “NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY”

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 470

Whereas over 60,000,000 hardworking individuals in the United States live in rural communities;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, 97 percent of the total landmass of the United States is designated as “rural”;

Whereas individuals in the United States in rural areas live in pursuit of the common good and keep values of the United States alive by fostering a spirit of generosity and respect among neighbors;

Whereas rural health care providers and patients showcase a selfless and community-minded spirit;

Whereas rural areas in the United States are places of opportunity for—

(1) mission-minded health professionals to provide individualized care to rural communities; and

(2) fueling innovations in rural health infrastructure, quality, and delivery of health care;

Whereas health care providers in rural areas are uniquely positioned to provide value-based holistic care;

Whereas rural health care providers are known and trusted by their patients;

Whereas residents in rural areas tend to experience lower life expectancy and poorer health status due to structural, behavioral, and geographic factors;

Whereas residents in rural areas face barriers accessing health care due to higher rates of uninsurance and underinsurance, lack of reliable transportation options, increased exposure to public health and occupational hazards, and a limited number of available providers, especially those providing specialized care;

Whereas rural health facilities in the United States face systemic challenges, including clinician workforce shortages, difficulty accessing certain technologies such as telehealth, and lower volumes of services spread over fixed costs;

Whereas the systemic challenges rural health facilities face have contributed to 150 rural hospital closures since 2010;