

tooth or a decayed tooth or a problem in your mouth, you want help, and you want it now; and you want a professional to provide it. They go through years and years of training. Yet, instead of being treated like a medical specialty like orthopedics or cardio, they are in a different category altogether. It makes no sense.

Today, I am announcing a new bill that I am introducing with Senator ROGER MARSHALL of Kansas. Our bipartisan legislation will authorize funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance public health activities to improve dental care across America. It will support education, data collection, sealant treatments in schools, water fluoridation efforts, the development of the dental workforce, and community outreach efforts, such as the distribution of toothbrushes—the basics—to new parents and children.

Illinois has not received funding for this important work in nearly 20 years due to a lack of funding. I want to change that. If we improve the health of Americans, especially kids, then we must invest in preventing cavities, tooth decay, and infections. We must also ensure that patients have access to treatment, regardless of their ZIP Codes.

I appreciate the partnership of my colleague Senator MARSHALL, and I will be working to pass this bipartisan legislation quickly.

I want to say, just in closing, to the mayor, Carolin Harvey of Carbondale, IL, that you shocked me when you suggested pediatric dentistry was your ask. It told me a lot about you, your heart, and your caring for kids. Now that we know the reality of kids waiting for months and months and even years for basic dental treatment, let's do something about it, not just in Illinois but across this country. This is fundamental and basic, good health, and we need to make sure it is included in all healthcare coverage.

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. 3597

*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 Dental Health Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS.

Section 317M of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-14) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2024 through 2028”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “2001 through 2005” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3605. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to develop

guidelines and best practices for local evacuation route planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Emergency Vehicle and Community, EVAC, Planning Act. This legislation would strengthen communities to incorporate emergency evacuation routes in the transportation planning process.

Specifically, this bill would direct the Department of Transportation, DOT, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, to develop and publicly disseminate guidance and best practices for States, territories, Indian Tribes, and local governments to utilize to ensure necessary considerations are taken for evacuation routes during local planning.

As we suffer from increasingly catastrophic natural disasters—from fires to hurricanes to flooding—efficient emergency evacuation routes can be the difference between life and death for our most vulnerable communities.

The 2018 Camp Fire tore through the town of Paradise, CA, incinerating roughly 19,000 homes, businesses, and other buildings. Eighty-five people perished. But one of the most horrifying aspects of this tragedy was that some of the victims were killed in their cars when flames overtook the backed-up traffic on the only road out of town.

We saw similar concerns in Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina, which resulted in efforts to improve evacuation route capacity, after nearly 100,000 residents were trapped inside the city of New Orleans.

And most recently in Lahaina, HI, a lack of evacuation routes contributed to making this the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. Press accounts detail the harrowing experience of people finding themselves caught in their cars, jammed together on narrow roads, surrounded by flames on three sides and the ocean on the fourth.

In the event of a natural disaster, people need to efficiently access evacuation routes that have been strategically designed to save lives and move people out of the area quickly.

Many cities, counties, and Tribal governments—especially those that are rural or low-income—that are the most vulnerable to disaster are also the least likely to have the resources and in-house expertise necessary to develop comprehensive and efficient emergency evacuation routes.

I thank Senators CASSIDY, SCHATZ, and HIRONO for introducing this important legislation with me. I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this bill to ensure communities are equipped with the guidelines and best practices necessary to bolster disaster preparedness and save lives.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3606. A bill to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of

1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the NEHRP Reauthorization Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP, and improve the Nation's earthquake preparedness.

This bill would reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP, and authorize a total of \$175.4 million per year from fiscal year 2024 to 2028 across the four Federal Agencies responsible for long-term earthquake risk reduction under NEHRP: the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, the National Science Foundation, NSF, and the United States Geological Survey, USGS.

Specifically, the NEHRP Reauthorization Act of 2023 would authorize \$10.6 million for FEMA, \$5.9 million for NIST, \$58 million for NSF, and \$100.9 million for USGS per year from fiscal year 2024 to 2028. This funding would support research, development, and implementation activities related to earthquake safety and risk reduction.

In California and across the Nation, earthquakes threaten lives, infrastructure, and communities. NEHRP allows vulnerable communities across the State to better prepare and respond to earthquakes through crucial tools like the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System Program and working to advance the scientific understanding of earthquakes.

I want to thank Senator MURKOWSKI for introducing this important legislation with me in the Senate, and I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this bipartisan bill to improve our nation's earthquake preparedness.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH” AND COMMENDING THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL AND THE MEMBER-OWNERS, BUSINESSES, EMPLOYEES, FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND PRACTITIONERS WHO USE THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 525

Whereas a cooperative—

(1) is a business that is owned and governed by its members, who are the individuals who use the business, create the products of the business, or manage the operation of the business; and

(2) operates under the 7 principles of—

- (A) voluntary open membership;
- (B) democratic control;
- (C) owner economic participation;
- (D) autonomy and independence;
- (E) education, training, and information;
- (F) cooperation among cooperatives; and
- (G) concern for community;

Whereas cooperative entrepreneurs can be found in almost every economic sector in the United States, throughout all 50 States and the territories of the United States, and in every congressional district in the United States;

Whereas cooperatives help farmers increase incomes and become more resilient to economic business cycles by working together to plan and prepare for the future, while contributing significantly to the economic activity in the agriculture and food markets of the United States;

Whereas the roughly 1,700 agricultural cooperatives in the United States operate more than 9,500 facilities, employ a record \$111,000,000,000 in assets, and generate more than \$231,400,000,000 in business;

Whereas the majority of the 2,000,000 farmers in the United States belong to an agricultural cooperative;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives offer members the opportunity to access commodity value-added profits throughout the handling, processing, and distribution chains;

Whereas member-owners in agricultural cooperatives are dedicated to providing the highest quality product for consumers;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives add significant benefits to the economic well-being of rural areas of the United States by providing more than 250,000 jobs with annual wages totaling more than \$11,000,000,000;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives provide resources to their member-owners, such as low-cost supplies, effective marketing, and services;

Whereas farmer members in agricultural cooperatives have the opportunity to pool resources and reinvest profits into the communities of the farmer members;

Whereas the principles of cooperation and the cooperative business model help smallholder farmers organize themselves and gain access to local and global markets, training, improved inputs, conservation programs, and aggregated sales and marketing;

Whereas the cooperative business model provides farmers ownership over their economic decisions, a focus on learning, and a broader understanding of environmental and social concerns;

Whereas the cooperative business model has been used throughout the history of the United States to advance civil rights and to help ensure that all people have equal access to economic opportunity;

Whereas cooperative values promote self-determination and democratic rights for all people;

Whereas the comprehensive global food security strategy established under section 5 of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9304) (commonly known as “Feed the Future”) and the Cooperative Development Program of the United States Agency for International Development use cooperative principles and the cooperative business model to advance international development, nutrition, resilience, and economic security;

Whereas the Interagency Working Group on Cooperative Development—

(1) is an interagency group that is coordinated and chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture to foster cooperative development and ensure coordination with Federal agencies and national and local cooperative organizations that have cooperative programs and interests; and

(2) as of the date of introduction of this resolution, has organized 11 meetings;

Whereas the bipartisan Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus unites Members of Congress to—

(1) create a better-informed electorate and a more educated public on the important role that cooperatives play in the economy of the United States and the world;

(2) promote the cooperative business model because that model ensures that consumers have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices and costs that improve the lives of individuals, families, and their communities; and

(3) address and correct awareness challenges among the public and within the Federal Government relating to what cooperatives look like, who participates in cooperatives, where cooperatives are located, and why individuals choose cooperatives;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census, as part of the 2017 and 2022 Economic Censuses, asked each business if the business was organized as a cooperative, and the responses of businesses yielded both quantitative and qualitative data on the effects and importance of cooperatives across the economy of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the rural United States, many utility service providers operate as cooperatives and are tasked with the delivery of public services, such as electricity, water, telecommunications, and broadband, in areas where investor-owned utility companies typically do not operate;

Whereas utility cooperatives have innovated to meet the evolving needs of their member-owners, create more resilient communities, and help rural individuals in the United States prosper;

Whereas electric cooperatives serve 56 percent of the landmass of the United States, including 92 percent of persistent poverty counties, and energy cooperatives power more than 21,500,000 homes, businesses, and schools;

Whereas there are approximately 260 telephone cooperatives in the United States with total annual revenues of \$3,900,000,000;

Whereas, in the financial services sector, cooperatives, including credit unions, farm credit banks, and other financing organizations that lend to cooperatives, provide numerous benefits to the member-owners of those cooperatives;

Whereas, nationally, approximately 4,800 credit unions serve 138,000,000 members;

Whereas member-owners of cooperatives vote in board elections, and earned profits cycle back into cost-saving programs or return as dividend payments;

Whereas purchasing and shared service cooperatives allow independent and franchise businesses to thrive;

Whereas food cooperatives range in size from small, local institutions to multi-store regional giants that compete with chain stores with locations across the United States;

Whereas food cooperatives support local producers in all 50 States and reduce food insecurity;

Whereas, in the housing sector, housing cooperatives and resident-owned communities in which members own the building or land—

(1) are an alternative to conventional rental apartments, manufactured home parks, and condominiums; and

(2) empower each resident with ownership and responsibility;

Whereas housing cooperatives have roots dating to the late 1800s and are increasingly becoming a housing alternative for students at colleges throughout the United States;

Whereas shared equity housing cooperatives are a strategy for preserving long-term, affordable housing;

Whereas cooperatives allow residents of manufactured home communities to collectively purchase the land on which they live, providing stability and the opportunity to self-govern;

Whereas, as of 2023, 309 manufactured home communities are cooperatively owned;

Whereas the growth of worker cooperatives in the United States is allowing more workers to own and have greater control over their businesses;

Whereas many small businesses convert to cooperatives when faced with closure or a buyout, ensuring that such a business can continue to serve its community; and

Whereas the cooperative business model allows business owners to retire and transfer business ownership to employees or consumers, protecting local ownership and supporting local communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Co-Op Month”;;

(2) commends the cooperative business model for—

(A) its contributions to the economy of the United States;

(B) the jobs it creates; and

(C) its positive impacts on local communities;

(3) expresses confidence in, and support for, cooperatives to continue their successes; and

(4) will be mindful in crafting legislation that affects business models that are not the cooperative business model so that the legislation does not adversely affect the cooperative business model.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 526—REPEALING STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO FLOWERS IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 526

*Resolved*,

#### SECTION 1. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON FLOWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Senate Resolution 284 (58th Congress), agreed to February 24, 1905, is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Senate Resolution 221 (98th Congress), agreed to September 15, 1983, is repealed.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1382. Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1383. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1384. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1385. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.