

will have one less option, at least, with IVF not even available to them.

This is not what we should be fighting for. We have to work to get more people covered, because high-quality, low-cost healthcare should not be a luxury available to some, and, frankly—and I believe this—there is going to be a point where we don't fight about healthcare anymore. There is going to be a point at which Republicans realize that taking away people's healthcare, taking away people's autonomy as it relates to their own bodies, is just an electoral loser.

We are getting there on Obamacare. I thought we had kind of gotten there after multiple attempts to repeal it, but here they are again, trying to start that effort again.

Democrats are focusing on lowering premium and drug prescription costs so getting healthcare doesn't bankrupt people. And even the Republicans in Washington and across the country, as they try to control women by dismantling reproductive freedoms, Democrats are fighting to codify Roe into Federal law.

Democrats have done more than just give speeches about healthcare. We have actually delivered. It was 14 years ago that we passed the Affordable Care Act, which has since helped more than 40 million Americans get their coverage and has improved health outcomes for so many people: women, children, seniors, people with disabilities, people in rural communities.

And so it is no wonder that, more than a decade later, the ACA continues to grow in popularity and is setting new records every year for enrollment. Why? Because people actually like having healthcare. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, voters, not voters—everybody basically thinks that we should have a system that treats you humanely if you are sick.

But it hasn't stopped Republicans from trying again and again to repeal it, through Supreme Court cases, Executive orders, and legislation. They have failed every time.

Meanwhile, Democrats continue to build on the ACA's progress, including recently with the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan, because there are now tax credits and other measures in those bills that enable millions of Americans to save, on average, \$800 a year on premiums. And the number of uninsured is at an all-time low. The number of uninsured is at an all-time low, and the reason for that is legislation that fortunately passed. But we, unfortunately, did not have a single Republican vote for the Affordable Care Act, for the American Rescue Plan, or for the Inflation Reduction Act.

For the first time ever, people with Medicare are paying less for insulin, which is now capped at \$35, and saving money on a whole range of other prescription drugs. This is what progress looks like.

But there are still millions of Americans, especially in the middle class,

who don't get coverage through work but make too much to qualify for subsidies, and they deserve coverage too. The State Public Option Act, which I am reintroducing today with colleagues in the Senate and House, would help to bridge that gap. It helps to provide a public option to anyone who wants health insurance by allowing States to create a Medicaid buy-in program that is not based on income.

State public-option programs have shown to lower costs, increase consumers' choice in plans, and improve equity in coverage. Several States—including Maine, Minnesota, and New Mexico—are already exploring creating exactly this kind of buy-in approach. The State Public Option Act would help other States to follow suit.

The bottom line is this: Healthcare is a necessity and not a luxury, and it shouldn't be something the political parties argue about. In the richest country in human history, having it should not depend on your job or your economic status. It ought to be available, accessible, and affordable to everybody. The vast majority of Americans agree, but there is only one party today fighting to make it a reality.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4065. A bill to prohibit discrimination in health care and require the provision of equitable health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Equal Health Care for All Act, which appropriately frames healthcare discrimination as a civil rights issue.

Inequitable access to quality, affordable healthcare is the result of centuries of structural and systemic racism, all of which continues to result in poorer health outcomes in communities of color.

Black, Hispanic, and indigenous individuals are disproportionately more likely than their White counterparts to suffer from a range of illnesses, from asthma to heart disease to prostate cancer.

Inequitable outcomes are not exclusive to racial trends, however. Women are both diagnosed with and die from lung cancer at a higher rate than men, when comparing those who never smoked. And while rates of lung cancer have dropped, women fall behind while rates of cancer drop faster for men.

The Equal Health Care for All Act seeks to address structural inequities by establishing a legal definition of "inequitable health care" and creating a formal process to enforce the standard.

The bill would also establish a grant program to assist hospitals and other providers in implementing reforms to ensure equitable care and would establish a permanent Federal Health Equity Commission to study and make recommendations on health equity issues.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative ADAM SCHIFF, for his leadership in California and for leading on this issue in the House.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Equal Health Care for All Act as quickly as possible.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 616—CONDEMNING THE TREATMENT OF DR. GUBAD IBADOGLU BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AZERBAIJAN AND URGING HIS IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 616

Whereas Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu, a respected academic and economist, and his wife, Irada Bayramova, were arrested by Azerbaijani authorities on July 23, 2023, and severely beaten while in police custody;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu was dubiously accused by Azerbaijani authorities of multiple criminal acts without evidence;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu remains imprisoned at the Baku Detention Center in extremely poor conditions while awaiting trial;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu's health has deteriorated significantly since his initial arrest, and he has not received adequate medical treatment for his medical condition;

Whereas Dr. Ibadoghlu has been repeatedly denied access to his legal counsel and a fair trial while in custody;

Whereas the Department of State and the United States Embassy in Baku, along with United States academic institutions and respected international organizations, have expressed deep concerns regarding Dr. Ibadoghlu's health and have demanded his immediate release;

Whereas Azerbaijan's ties with the community of democracies has been undermined by a troubling record of wrongfully detaining those involved in human rights, journalism, and peaceful freedom of expression, including Bakhtiyar Hajiyeve, Avaz Zeynalli, and Elchin Sadigov;

Whereas the wrongful detention of Dr. Ibadoghlu is a serious affront to human rights and academic freedom: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns—

(A) the treatment of Dr. Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan;

(B) such government's practice of wrongful detention; and

(C) such government's suppression of academic freedom;

(2) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, including Dr. Ibadoghlu; and

(3) urges the Secretary of State to continue prioritizing Dr. Ibadoghlu's well-being and release in all engagements with the Government of Azerbaijan.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 617—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ISRAEL HAS THE INHERENT RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF AND TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO ERADICATE THE TERRORIST THREAT POSED BY HAMAS**

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 617

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Israel has the inherent right to defend itself and take necessary steps to eradicate the terrorist threat posed by Hamas; and

(2) any call for elections in Israel by a United States Government official is to be considered an act of electoral interference.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 618—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “COUNTERING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION MONTH” AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD RAISE AWARENESS OF THE HARM CAUSED BY INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION**

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

S. RES. 618

Whereas thousands of children have been abducted from the United States by parents, separating those children from their parents who remain in the United States;

Whereas it is illegal under section 1204 of title 18, United States Code, to remove, or attempt to remove, a child from the United States or to retain a child (who has been in the United States) outside of the United States with the intent to obstruct the lawful exercise of parental rights;

Whereas 9,816 children were reported abducted from the United States between 2010 and 2020;

Whereas, during 2022, one or more cases of international parental child abduction involving children who are citizens of the United States were identified in 99 countries around the world;

Whereas the United States is a party to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague, October 25, 1980 (TIAS 11670) (referred to in this preamble as the “Hague Convention on Abduction”), which—

(1) supports the prompt return of wrongly removed or retained children; and

(2) calls for all participating parties to respect parental custody rights;

Whereas the majority of children who were abducted from the United States have yet to be reunited with their custodial parents;

Whereas, in 2022, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Ecuador, Egypt, Honduras, India,

Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Peru, Romania, the Russian Federation, and the United Arab Emirates were identified pursuant to the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) as engaging in a pattern of noncompliance (as defined in section 3 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 9101));

Whereas, between 2015 and 2022, a total of 19 countries were previously identified as engaging in a pattern of noncompliance, including Austria, the Bahamas, the People’s Republic of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia, showing the importance of continued enforcement of United States law by the executive branch to ensure the return of abducted children;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States has recognized that family abduction—

(1) is a form of child abuse with potentially “devastating consequences for a child”, which may include negative impacts on the physical and mental well-being of the child; and

(2) may cause a child to “experience a loss of community and stability, leading to loneliness, anger, and fear of abandonment”;

Whereas, according to the 2010 Report on Compliance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction by the Department of State, an abducted child is at risk of significant short- and long-term problems, including “anxiety, eating problems, nightmares, mood swings, sleep disturbances, and aggressive behavior”;

Whereas international parental child abduction has devastating emotional consequences for the child and for the parent from whom the child is separated;

Whereas the United States has a history of promoting child welfare through institutions, including—

(1) the Children’s Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(2) the Office of Children’s Issues of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State;

Whereas the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction, through dedicated advocacy and regular testimony, has highlighted the importance of this issue to Congress and called on successive administrations to take concerted action to stop international parental child abduction and repatriate kidnapped United States children;

Whereas Bring Abducted Children Home, Bring Our Kids Home, iStand Parent Network, and the Coalition to End International Parental Child Abduction have been recognized by the Department of Justice as non-profit organizations specializing in international parental child abduction;

Whereas Congress has signaled a commitment to ending international parental child abduction by enacting—

(1) the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (22 U.S.C. 9001 et seq.);

(2) the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-173), which enacted section 1204 of title 18, United States Code; and

(3) the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.);

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 543, 112th Congress, agreed to on December 4, 2012, condemning the international abduction of children;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 431, 115th Congress, agreed to on April 19, 2018, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, international parental child abduction;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 23, 116th Congress, agreed to on April 11, 2019, to raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 568, 117th Congress, agreed to on July 21, 2022, to raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction;

Whereas the Senate adopted Senate Resolution 115, 118th Congress, agreed to on May, 10 2023, to raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction;

Whereas Congress calls upon the Department of State to fully utilize the tools available under the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.) to negotiate, and make publicly available, bilateral agreements or memorandums of understanding—

(1) with countries not parties to the Hague Convention on Abduction to resolve abduction and access cases; and

(2) regarding open abduction and access cases predating the Hague Convention on Abduction with countries that have thereafter become parties to the Hague Convention on Abduction;

Whereas all 50 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws criminalizing parental kidnapping;

Whereas, in 2022, the Prevention Branch of the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State—

(1) fielded more than 4,900 inquiries from the general public relating to preventing a child from being removed from the United States; and

(2) enrolled more than 3,500 children in the Children’s Passport Issuance Alert Program, which—

(A) is one of the most important tools of the Department of State for preventing international parental child abduction;

(B) allows the Office of Children’s Issues to contact the enrolling parent or legal guardian to verify whether the parental consent requirement has been met when a passport application has been submitted for an enrolled child; and

(C) has enrolled a total of over 62,400 children in the program since its inception;

Whereas the Department of State cannot track the ultimate destination of a child through the use of the passport issued by the Department of State if the child is transported to a third country after departing from the United States;

Whereas a child who is a citizen of the United States may have another nationality and may travel using a passport issued by another country, which—

(1) increases the difficulty of determining the whereabouts of the child; and

(2) makes efforts to prevent abduction more critical;

Whereas, during 2022, 165 children were returned to the United States, and an additional 117 abduction cases, involving 145 children, were resolved without the children being returned to the United States; and

Whereas, in 2022, the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Prevention Branch of the Office of Children’s Issues of the Department of State, enrolled 307 children in the Prevent Abduction Program, which is aimed at preventing international parental child abduction through coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol officers at the airport, seaport, or land border ports of entry by intercepting the child before departure: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and observes “Countering International Parental Child Abduction