

FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 4096. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the random assignment of certain cases in the district courts of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 4096

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 “End Judge Shopping Act”.

SEC. 2. DIVISION OF BUSINESS AMONG DISTRICT JUDGES.

Section 137 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT OF OTHER CASES.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘law’ includes, with respect to an executive branch or a State or Federal agency, a rule, a regulation, a policy, and an order.

“(2) RANDOM ASSIGNMENT.—Any civil action brought for declaratory, injunctive, or other equitable relief seeking (whether facially or as-applied) to challenge the constitutionality or lawfulness of, or to bar, restrain, vacate, set aside, or mandate the enforcement of, any provision of a Federal law on a nationwide basis, or any provision of a State law on a statewide basis in that State, shall be randomly assigned to a judge of the district court in which the civil action is filed.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 631—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2024 AS THE “MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 631

Whereas millions of brave United States servicemembers and veterans have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving the Armed Forces of the United States of America in active-duty posts around the world;

Whereas there are more than 1,560,000 children connected to the military across the United States;

Whereas it is only fitting that the people of the United States take time to recognize

the contributions of servicemembers and veterans, celebrate their spirit, and let the men and women of the United States in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, the people of the United States are taking care of their children;

Whereas the recognition of a “Month of the Military Child” will allow the people of the United States to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, struggles, and unconditional support of United States troops;

Whereas, when a servicemember joins the military, it is a family commitment to the United States, and military children are heroes in their own way; and

Whereas a month-long salute to military children will encourage the United States to provide direct support to military children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 2024 as the “Month of the Military Child”; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe the Month of the Military Child with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and show appreciation for military children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 632—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Mr. LUJÁN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 632

Whereas the week of April 1, 2024, is National Public Health Week;

Whereas the theme for National Public Health Week in 2024 is “Protecting, Connecting and Thriving: We Are All Public Health”;

Whereas the goal of National Public Health Week in 2024 is to recognize the contributions of public health in—

(1) improving the health of the people of the United States; and

(2) achieving health equity;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, the United States and the global community are continuing to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires support for—

(1) a robust public health infrastructure and workforce;

(2) State, territorial, local, and Tribal health departments, health care workers, public health laboratories, and first responders;

(3) activities related to epidemiology and public health data;

(4) relieving financial burdens for individuals in the United States hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through public health emergency leave;

(5) State Medicaid programs and community health centers to ensure care for vulnerable populations;

(6) collaboration among the Federal Government, State and local governments, Tribal health organizations, schools, businesses, and employers to support public health measures;

(7) investments in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which support infectious disease outbreak preparedness and critical public health infrastructure for State and local health departments and public health laboratories;

(8) a comprehensive effort to ensure successful vaccination campaigns that boost access to vaccines for vulnerable populations and trust in vaccine safety and effectiveness; and

(9) efforts to address racism as a public health crisis and reduce racial and ethnic health disparities related to COVID-19 deaths, vaccine access and testing, and important health outcomes outside of the pandemic such as maternal mortality;

Whereas many of the leading causes of death for individuals in the United States result from chronic conditions, which are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health challenges;

Whereas there are significant differences in the health status of individuals living in the healthiest States and those living in the least healthy States, including differences in obesity rates, the prevalence of chronic diseases, and the prevalence of infectious diseases;

Whereas racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States continue to experience disparities in the burdens of illness and death, as compared to the entire population of the United States;

Whereas violence is a leading cause of premature death, and it is estimated that more than 7 individuals per hour die a violent death in the United States;

Whereas deaths from homicides cost the economy of the United States billions of dollars, and the violence of homicides can cause social and emotional distress, community trauma, injury, disability, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas 49,449 people died by suicide in 2022, with firearms being used in over 50 percent of suicides;

Whereas an estimated 1 in 7 children in the United States experienced child abuse and neglect in the past year, with 1,750 children dying of abuse and neglect in 2020;

Whereas significant progress has been made in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States to a historic low of 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022;

Whereas there are still stark disparities in infant mortality by race, ethnicity, geography, and income, as evidenced by the fact that Black infants experience infant mortality at a rate twice that of White infants;

Whereas women die from pregnancy-related complications in the United States at a higher rate than in many other developed countries, with the rate of maternal mortality being 32.9 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2021;

Whereas an estimated 84 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable;

Whereas, from 2017 to 2019, American Indian or Alaskan Native mothers experienced maternal mortality at a rate twice that of White mothers, and Black mothers experienced maternal mortality at a rate almost 3 times that of White mothers;

Whereas there were an estimated 107,622 drug overdose deaths in 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from 2020;

Whereas cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, accounting for more than 480,000 deaths every year;

Whereas the percentage of adults in the United States who smoke cigarettes has decreased from 20.9 percent of the population in 2005, to 11.5 percent of the population in 2021;

Whereas e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco product among youth since 2014, with 10.0 percent of high school students reporting e-cigarette use in 2023;

Whereas, in 2020, there were approximately 32,000 deaths in the United States due to exposure to particulate matter, 37 percent of which were directly related to fossil fuel burning;

Whereas heat-related mortality for people over 65 is estimated to have increased by approximately 74 percent from 2000 through 2004 compared to 2017 through 2021;

Whereas voting helps shape the conditions in which people can be healthy, and good health is consistently associated positively with higher likelihood of voter participation, but only 52.2 percent of eligible adults reported voting in the November 2022 elections;

Whereas public health organizations use National Public Health Week to educate public policymakers and public health professionals on issues that are important to improving the health of the people of the United States;

Whereas studies show that small strategic investments in disease prevention can result in significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas the vaccination of the public is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial decreases in—

(1) the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

(2) health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas each 10-percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a—

(1) 6.9-percent decrease in infant deaths;

(2) 3.2-percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease;

(3) 1.4-percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes; and

(4) 1.1-percent decrease in cancer-related deaths;

Whereas public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including—

(1) disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(2) natural disasters, such as wildfires, flooding, and severe storms; and

(3) other disasters, including disasters caused by human activity and public health emergencies;

Whereas public health professionals collaborate with partners outside of the health sector, including city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors can influence health outcomes;

Whereas, in communities across the United States, individuals are changing the way they care for their health by avoiding tobacco use, eating healthier, increasing physical activity, and preventing unintentional injuries at home and in the workplace; and

Whereas efforts to adequately support public health and the prevention of disease and injury can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness into a health system focused on preventing disease and injury and promoting wellness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Health Week;

(2) recognizes the efforts of public health professionals, the Federal Government, States, Tribes, municipalities, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury;

(3) recognizes the role of public health in—
(A) preventing and responding to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

(B) mitigating short-term and long-term impacts of infectious disease outbreaks on the health and wellness of individuals in the United States;

(C) addressing social and other determinants of health, including health disparities experienced by minority populations; and

(D) improving the overall health of individuals and communities in the United States;

(4) encourages increased efforts and resources to—

(A) improve the health of individuals in the United States; and

(B) make the United States, in 1 generation, the healthiest Nation in the world by—

(i) providing greater opportunities to improve community health and prevent disease and injury; and

(ii) strengthening the public health system and workforce in the United States; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to learn about the role of the public health system in improving health across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 633—RE-AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO TAIWAN AND RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

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

S. RES. 633

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8; 22 U.S.C. 3301 et. seq.; referred to in this preamble as the “TRA”), which was enacted on April 10, 1979, has been a cornerstone in upholding peace, security, and stability in the Taiwan Strait for 45 years, reflecting the enduring political, international, and economic interests of the United States;

Whereas United States relations with Taiwan are carried out through the American Institute in Taiwan pursuant to the TRA;

Whereas in 1982, President Ronald Reagan further clarified the importance and resilience of the United States-Taiwan relationship with the issuance of the Six Assurances to Taiwan;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances are cornerstones of United States policy with respect to Taiwan;

Whereas the TRA and the Six Assurances have been essential components in helping to maintain peace, security, and stability in the Western Pacific, thereby furthering the political, security, and economic interests of the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas Taiwan is a key United States partner in the Indo-Pacific that shares similar values, deep commercial and economic links, and strong ties;

Whereas the TRA enshrines in law the United States' commitment to make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services in such quantity as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability;

Whereas the TRA states it is United States policy to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan have forged ever closer economic and security relations over the last 45 years based on—

(1) their shared commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and free market principles; and

(2) their willingness to partner in efforts to promote democratic resilience, counter disinformation, and to address other global challenges, such as those related to the environment, public health, energy security, education, women's empowerment, digital economy, poverty, and natural disasters;

Whereas in 1971, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 2758 (XXVI), which does not address—

(1) Taiwan's political status; or

(2) the issue of Taiwan's representation in the United Nations;

Whereas the People's Republic of China continues to falsely assert that United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) “resolved, politically, legally and procedurally, the issue of the representation of the whole of China, including Taiwan, in the United Nations and international institutions”;

Whereas Taiwan is the United States' eighth-largest trading partner and, in 2023, the United States and Taiwan signed the first agreement under a United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade;

Whereas the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (Public Law 117-263), which was enacted in 2022, included important provisions—

(1) to expand United States-Taiwan security cooperation and mutually beneficial relationship through the Taiwan Fellowship Program; and

(2) to develop a strategy for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations;

Whereas the Global Cooperation and Training Framework exemplifies the commitment of the United States and Taiwan to collaborate on global challenges, enhancing global capacity through cooperation and the sharing of best practices in areas such as public health, environmental protection, and cybersecurity;

Whereas the programs under the United States-Taiwan Education Initiative significantly contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations through educational exchanges, language learning, and professional development, facilitating mutual understanding and collaboration between the peoples of the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the United States-Taiwan Science and Technology Agreement and the inaugural Science and Technology Cooperation Dialogue highlight the dedication of the United States and Taiwan—

(1) to advancing collaboration and understanding between their respective science and technology communities; and

(2) to fostering innovation and addressing shared challenges through joint research and development efforts; and

Whereas Taiwan's democracy has deepened with the 3 peaceful transfers of power from 1 political party to another over 3 direct Presidential and 10 direct legislative elections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, which, together with the Six Assurances, are cornerstones of the United States' unofficial relationship with Taiwan;

(2) reiterates that the President should continue regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan consistent with Taiwan's self-defense requirements;

(3) calls on the Secretary of State to actively engage internationally in support of Taiwan's membership or meaningful participation in international organizations;

(4) reaffirms the importance of cultivating close ties through initiatives such as the Fulbright Program and the Taiwan Fellowship Program; and

(5) acknowledges the important work done by the American Institute in Taiwan and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in support of joint United States-Taiwan interests.