

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.

SENATE RESOLUTION 634—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE YOUTH AMERICA GRAND PRIX THROUGHOUT ITS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AS THE NATIONAL YOUTH DANCE COMPETITION OF THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 634

Whereas the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) is recognized as the largest in the world and the first in the United States student ballet scholarship competition;

Whereas YAGP is dedicated to bringing dance to the United States and dance of the United States to the world;

Whereas, over its 25-year history, YAGP has provided scholarship opportunities to ballet students in all 50 States and in more than 40 countries across 5 continents;

Whereas YAGP has provided young dancers from all 50 States the chance to perform professionally in the United States and abroad;

Whereas YAGP regularly conducts competitions, master classes, education events, and performances in over 15 countries;

Whereas YAGP has provided more than 250,000 dance students of all backgrounds with the life-changing opportunity of receiving top-quality dance education, allowing them to pursue a career in dance;

Whereas YAGP has awarded over \$5,000,000 in scholarships to world-renowned dance schools;

Whereas, as a result of YAGP's work to provide a pathway into ballet for individuals from all communities, the representation of dancers of diverse backgrounds in the United States and in international dance schools and companies has increased by 30 percent;

Whereas over 450 YAGP alumni are dancing professionally in 80 companies worldwide, including 60 YAGP alumni currently dancing in American Ballet Theatre, recognized by the Congress as America's National Ballet Company; and

Whereas YAGP has been recognized for its contribution to international dance by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Youth America Grand Prix for over 25 years of service as the national youth dance competition of the United States, during which it has provided world class instruction and performances in all 50 States;

(2) acknowledges that the Youth America Grand Prix also serves as a platform for cross cultural exchanges for ballet students from all 50 States of the United States and students from around the globe;

(3) recognizes that the Youth America Grand Prix's groundbreaking and innovative education, outreach, scholarship, and performance opportunities for talented young dancers help support and develop dance artists in the United States and abroad; and

(4) celebrates Youth America Grand Prix's critical role in ensuring the future of dance in the United States and worldwide by supporting the next generation of talented young dance artists and dance audiences.

SENATE RESOLUTION 635—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2024 AS "NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr.

BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 635

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases might give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" for the 19th year will continue to raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2024 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 636—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 29, 2024, AS "RARE DISEASE DAY"

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 636

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is a disease or disorder that affects a small number of patients;

Whereas, in the United States, a rare disease or disorder affects fewer than 200,000 individuals;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 30,000,000 individuals in the United States are living with at least 1 of the more than 7,000 known rare diseases or disorders;

Whereas children with rare diseases or disorders account for a significant portion of the population affected by rare diseases or disorders in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases and disorders are serious and life-threatening;

Whereas 2024 marks the 41st anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049), a landmark law enabling tremendous advances in the research and treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas programs such as the Accelerating Rare Disease Cures Program of the Food and Drug Administration (referred to in this preamble as the "FDA") aim to drive scientific and regulatory innovation and engagement to accelerate the availability of treatments for patients with rare diseases;

Whereas 28 of the 55 novel drugs approved by the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of the FDA in 2023—

(1) were approved to prevent, diagnose, or treat a rare disease or condition; and

(2) received an orphan-drug designation;

Whereas, although the FDA has approved more than 1,100 drugs and biological products for an orphan indication for the treatment of a rare disease or disorder, approximately 90 percent of rare diseases do not have a treatment approved by the FDA for their condition;

Whereas financing life-altering and life-saving treatments can be challenging for individuals with a rare disease or disorder and their families;

Whereas individuals with rare diseases or disorders can experience difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses and finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their rare disease or disorder;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health support innovative research on the treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event that was first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and was observed in more than 106 countries in 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 29, 2024, as "Rare Disease Day"; and

(2) recognizes the importance of, with respect to rare diseases and disorders—

(A) improving awareness;

(B) encouraging accurate and early diagnosis; and

(C) supporting national and global research efforts to develop effective treatments, diagnostics, and cures.

NOTICES OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend the following portion of paragraph 1 of Rule XXII: "the motions relating to adjournment, to