

Whereas, of the more than 28,800 missing children reported to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2023, 1 in 6 were likely victims of child sex trafficking;

Whereas today, the average age of child sex trafficking victims reported missing to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is only 15 years old;

Whereas youth experiencing homelessness experience high rates of human trafficking, and 1 in 5 homeless youths is a victim of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, or both;

Whereas 22 percent of youths who experience homelessness were approached for paid sex on their first night of homelessness;

Whereas LGBTQ youths are disproportionately affected, accounting for 33.8 percent of sex trafficking victims;

Whereas youths facing homelessness have a lower probability of being trafficked if they have a supportive adult in their life;

Whereas the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services reports that American Indian, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander women and girls have a heightened risk for sex trafficking;

Whereas the Department of Justice found that studies on the topic of human trafficking of American Indians and Alaska Natives suggest there are—

(1) high rates of sexual exploitation of Native women and girls;

(2) gaps in data and research on trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native victims; and

(3) barriers that prevent law enforcement agencies and victim service providers from identifying and responding appropriately to Native victims;

Whereas, according to the Government Accountability Office, from fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2016, there were only 14 Federal investigations and 2 Federal prosecutions of human trafficking offenses in Indian country;

Whereas, to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in the United States and globally, the people of the United States, the Federal Government, and State, Tribal, and local governments must be—

(1) aware of the realities of human trafficking and modern slavery; and

(2) dedicated to stopping the horrific enterprise of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas the United States should hold accountable all individuals, groups, organizations, governments, and countries that support, advance, or commit acts of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas, through education, the United States must also work to end human trafficking and modern slavery in all forms in the United States and around the world;

Whereas victims of human trafficking deserve a trauma-informed approach that integrates the pursuit of justice and provision of social services designed to help them escape, and recover from, the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma they endured;

Whereas combating human trafficking requires a whole-of-government effort that rests on a unified and coordinated response among Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies and that places equal value on the prevention of trafficking, the identification and stabilization of victims, and the investigation and prosecution of traffickers;

Whereas laws to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking and to assist and protect victims of human trafficking and modern slavery have been enacted in the United States, including—

(1) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.);

(2) title XII of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4; 127 Stat. 136);

(3) the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129 Stat. 227);

(4) sections 910 and 914(e) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125; 130 Stat. 239 and 274);

(5) section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114);

(6) the Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-392; 132 Stat. 5250);

(7) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-393; 132 Stat. 5265);

(8) the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-425; 132 Stat. 5472);

(9) the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-427; 132 Stat. 5503);

(10) the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-103; 136 Stat. 840);

(11) the Abolish Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-347; 136 Stat. 6199);

(12) the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-348; 136 Stat. 6211); and

(13) the End Human Trafficking in Government Contracts Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-211; 136 Stat. 2248);

Whereas the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129 Stat. 227) established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to provide a formal platform for survivors of human trafficking to advise and make recommendations on Federal anti-trafficking policies to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established by the President;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration issued a final rule (80 Fed. Reg. 4967) to implement Executive Order 13627, entitled “Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts”, that clarifies the policy of the United States on combating trafficking in persons as outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation by strengthening the prohibition on contractors from charging employee recruitment fees;

Whereas, although such laws and regulations are currently in force, it is essential to increase public awareness, particularly among individuals who are most likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, regarding conditions and dynamics of human trafficking and modern slavery, precisely because traffickers use techniques that are designed to severely limit self-reporting and evade law enforcement;

Whereas January 1 is the anniversary of the effective date of the Emancipation Proclamation;

Whereas February 1 is—

(1) the anniversary of the date on which President Abraham Lincoln signed the joint resolution sending the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to the States for ratification to forever declare, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction”; and

(2) a date that has long been celebrated as National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code; and

Whereas, under the authority of Congress to enforce the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States “by appropriate legislation”, Congress, through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), updated the post-Civil

War involuntary servitude and slavery statutes and adopted an approach of victim protection, vigorous prosecution, and prevention of human trafficking, commonly known as the “3P” approach: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports—

(1) observing National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on February 1, 2024, to recognize the vital role that the people of the United States have in ending human trafficking and modern slavery;

(2) marking the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities, culminating in the observance on February 1, 2024, of National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code;

(3) urging continued partnerships with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, as well as survivors of human trafficking, social service providers, and nonprofit organizations to address human trafficking with a collaborative, victim-centered approach; and

(4) all other efforts to prevent, eradicate, and raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HIGH-POTENCY MARIJUANA

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

### S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas the use of high-potency marijuana has become increasingly prevalent across the United States;

Whereas the average potency of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (commonly known as “THC”), the major psychoactive component in marijuana, increased by 287 percent between 1995 and 2021, from 3.96 percent potency to 15.34 percent potency;

Whereas adolescent and teen marijuana abuse increased by 245 percent from 2000 to 2020;

Whereas the perceived risk of weekly marijuana use decreased from 47.5 percent to 27.4 percent among adolescents in the past decade;

Whereas cannabis use disorder among teens increased by 25 percent after the enactment of recreational marijuana legalization;

Whereas increased potency levels correspond with greater health risks, with research showing that daily use of THC with a potency greater than 15 percent results in a 5 times increased risk of psychosis;

Whereas only 3 States have enacted potency caps on marijuana flower or concentrates;

Whereas the use of high-potency marijuana has been linked to potential adverse health effects, including mental health disorders and cognitive impairment;

Whereas education and awareness programs are essential to inform the public about the potential risks associated with the use of high-potency marijuana; and

Whereas a bipartisan effort is necessary to develop evidence-based policies to address the increasing prevalence of high-potency marijuana: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the “Randy’s Resolution”.

**SEC. 2. RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HIGH-POTENCY MARIJUANA.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that Federal agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, should conduct and support research on the health effects of high-potency marijuana and its impact on vulnerable populations such as youth.

(b) **RESOLVING MATTERS.**—Congress—

(1) supports the development of educational programs at the Federal, State, and local levels to inform the public about the potential risks associated with the use of high-potency marijuana, especially among youth; and

(2) urges Federal, State, and local governments to collaborate with public health organizations, medical professionals, and community stakeholders to develop evidence-based policies that address the public health and safety concerns associated with high-potency marijuana.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of our team be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Steven Mapes, Jordan Harrington, and Janelle Conrad.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024 AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 529.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 529) recognizing January 2024 as “National Mentoring Month”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 529) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 18, 2024, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 541, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 541) supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on February 1, 2024, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 541) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024, THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, February 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Campbell nomina-

tion; further, that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Laroski nomination at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday’s session, that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator DUCKWORTH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

**IRAN**

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, if you listen closely right now, you can hear the drums of war gain momentum. I know that sound. It is the same sound that led me to deploy to a dusty desert outpost in Iraq 20 years ago, where I served alongside some of the bravest men and women you could ever meet. It is the same sound that, ultimately, led me to run for office, a decision I only made after I was shot down in Iraq, when I found myself searching for a new mission to serve my Nation.

I found that mission in giving a voice to every veteran who had willingly sacrificed so much answering their Nation’s call to serve, and I found it in speaking up for the Active-Duty troops still waking up in dusty base camps throughout the Middle East, still serving tour after tour, bleeding—even dying—thousands of miles away because they had sworn an oath to defend a country they loved, no matter what it cost them.

And that sound is why, a few minutes ago, I wheeled myself to this desk with the same purpose that took me first to battle, then the campaign trail: And that is to help keep America as strong as she can be and to try to look out for the troops who never stop looking out for the rest of us.

Today, I am here in this beautiful chamber with privilege all around me to beg of my colleagues one simple thing: As tensions in the Middle East escalate, please, from this place of safety and comfort, think of the sacrifices our servicemembers make every single day. Please, as the drums of war grow louder, honor our servicemembers by thinking of what we would be asking them to risk if we risk an expanded conflict with Iran.

On Sunday morning, we all woke to the tragic, horrific news that three American soldiers were killed in an Iran-backed attack in Jordan. I imagine many who saw the news may not have even known that we had U.S. servicemembers stationed in Jordan, but I was acutely aware of it. In fact,