

care providers for electronic funds transfers and health care payment and remittance advice transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 4047

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4047, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4091

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4091, a bill to strengthen Federal efforts to counter antisemitism in the United States.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4258, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 4289

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4289, a bill to cancel existing medical debt, and for other purposes.

S. 4292

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4292, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 450

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 450, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions.

S. RES. 680

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 680, a resolution condemning the violent, anti-American and anti-Israel protests that are occurring on campuses of institutions of higher education nationwide.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 4329. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette Street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I speak in support of renaming the post office in Rayville, LA, as the Luke Letlow Post Office Building in memory of a great American, Luke Letlow.

Luke was a public servant, father, and husband in his short life of 41 years. He spent almost all of his adult life serving his fellow Americans. And shortly after being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent the fifth district of Louisiana, he became one of over a million Americans lost to COVID during the pandemic. Now his wife, Congresswoman JULIA LETLOW, carries on Luke's ambition to serve the same district that he had served both as a staffer and as a chief of staff to Congressman Ralph Abraham.

When you go through Rayville, you pass that post office. Handsome guy, huh? So by naming this post office—and the people who know this story—I want them to know that our State and our country values someone who desired to serve so much, but also acknowledge the tragedy and the impact COVID had upon our State, our country, and our families. This office commemorates all that.

I thank House Majority Leader STEVE SCALISE for introducing the House companion and the whole House for passing this bill.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 684—SUPPORTING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN HELPING SAVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES WITH VACCINES AND IMMUNIZATION THROUGH GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE (“GAVI”)

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

S. RES. 684

Whereas, prior to 2000, the distribution of and the resources for vaccines for children in the developing world were declining, immunization rates were stagnant or decreasing, and nearly 10,000,000 children died each year before reaching their 5th birthday;

Whereas, prior to 2000, it was common for new lifesaving vaccines to take up to 15 years to be introduced in the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas access to routine immunization and vaccines protects children from deadly but preventable diseases and contributes to

national economic growth and poverty reduction by ensuring people live longer, healthier, and more productive lives;

Whereas, in 2000, the United States, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, government donors, lower-income country governments, foundations (including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), the private sector (including the vaccine industry), faith-based organizations, civil society, and other partners joined forces to create a public-private partnership now known as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in order to expand access to new and underused vaccines and support the introduction and scaleup of these vaccines into routine immunization systems in the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas, from 2000 through 2022, with support from the United States, and other donors and partners, Gavi has supported country-led vaccine initiatives in 78 countries to support the immunization of more than 1,000,000,000 additional children and averted an estimated 17,300,000 deaths in the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas Gavi has been a major contributor in reducing the number of childhood deaths in lower-income countries due to vaccine-preventable disease by 70 percent since 2000;

Whereas country ownership and sustainability are at the core of the Gavi model, which requires Gavi-eligible countries to contribute to a portion of vaccine costs and directly invest in immunizing children, and Gavi-supported countries contributed more than \$1,500,000,000 to immunization campaigns between 2008 and 2022;

Whereas 78 low-income countries currently provide co-financing for new and underused vaccines supported by Gavi, more than 19 countries have transitioned from Gavi support by the end of 2022, and an additional 10 countries may transition by 2040, moving toward fully funding their immunization programs;

Whereas Gavi has transformed the market for vaccines by matching pooled demand from low-income countries with secure, predictable financing to make vaccines more affordable and supply more reliable, reducing the price of the most common vaccines by 24 percent from 2015 to 2020 and increasing the number of global vaccine manufacturers selling pre-qualified Gavi-supported vaccines to the world's most impoverished countries from 5 in 2001 to 18 in 2018;

Whereas Gavi estimates that its market shaping efforts will result in savings of over \$900,000,000 from 2021 to 2025 and may encourage research and development of new vaccines;

Whereas Gavi is poised to provide the most comprehensive package of support in the 2021 to 2025 period by financing and delivering 18 vaccines to the world's most impoverished countries;

Whereas Gavi, the African Union, and the Africa Centers for Disease Control (Africa CDC) have jointly established the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) to provide innovative financing to expand sustainably vaccine manufacturing capacity in Africa and improve the region's resilience in the face of pandemics, outbreaks, and other health emergencies, while preserving the health of vaccine markets globally;

Whereas Gavi is collaborating with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on the final push to end polio, and expanding the integration of the inactivated polio vaccine into routine immunization programs;

Whereas Gavi has made significant progress in supporting the development and stockpiling of effective vaccines to combat cholera, measles, meningococcal, yellow fever, and Ebola, which could also protect

Americans in the event of an outbreak on United States soil;

Whereas malaria is one of most long-standing and deadliest diseases in Africa, and in 2022, malaria killed an estimated 580,000 children in Africa, 78 percent of whom were children under five;

Whereas Gavi has begun deliveries of new malaria vaccines and will expand the program to dozens of countries as vaccine supply becomes available;

Whereas Gavi recently allocated 18,000,000 doses of the malaria vaccine RTS,S in 2023 and 2024, the World Health Organization estimates that at least 40,000,000 to 60,000,000 doses will be needed annually by 2026 and 80,000,000 to 100,000,000 doses will be needed by 2030;

Whereas Gavi is supporting expanded procurement, access, and implementation of new malaria vaccine programs to help meet rising demand;

Whereas data from malaria vaccine trials indicate that these vaccines can save one life for every 200 children vaccinated, with the potential for significantly impacting public health and saving tens of thousands of lives annually;

Whereas Gavi supports the strengthening of health systems to ensure effective immunization and health services, including through the provision of cold chain equipment that can also be effectively repurposed for emergency response, as was demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, through COVAX, Gavi and global partners delivered nearly 2,000,000,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 146 economies, and averted an estimated 2,700,000 deaths in Advance Market Commitment lower-income participating economies;

Whereas Gavi is providing additional vaccine support to address health service interruptions that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and contributed to the largest backslide in routine childhood immunization in 30 years, and is also focusing on the 14,000,000 “zero-dose” children in Gavi-supported countries who had not received a single vaccine;

Whereas vaccines programs are widely regarded as high-impact, evidence-based interventions and are among the most efficient, cost-effective, and successful health initiatives in history, returning over \$50 in health and economic savings for every \$1 invested in Gavi-supported countries;

Whereas the prevention of infectious disease through immunization in Gavi-eligible countries provides protection and health security in the United States by reducing the prevalence of infectious diseases and stemming outbreaks at their source;

Whereas United States investment in Gavi complements and enhances the effectiveness of other United States investments in global health, particularly in maternal and child health and nutrition;

Whereas Gavi is committed to working with partners, including United States bilateral programs administrated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to ensure children in developing nations have access to lifesaving vaccines and immunizations;

Whereas Gavi's next strategic cycle will cover the strategic period of 2026 to 2030, which will include the expansion of Gavi's malaria program;

Whereas the launches of the Gavi's Investment Opportunity for 2026 through 2030 and AVMA will be held in June 2024 and co-hosted by the Government of France, African Union, and Africa CDC to obtain funding commitments;

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the goal of saving lives by

contributing annually to Gavi to meet its projected replenishment and program goals;

Whereas with this support and support from other donors, Gavi will have contributed \$220,500,000,000 in economic benefits in Gavi countries as of 2022, with each \$1 invested yielding \$54 return on investment; and

Whereas an increased commitment from the United States remains necessary to ensure predictability and stability to the vaccine market, to enable strong global health security efforts, spur confidence in Gavi-eligible countries, and encourage continued innovative vaccine-related approaches: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the continued support of the United States Government for the purchase of vaccines for low-income countries through Gavi as a cost-effective, efficient means to reduce mortality and as a critical component of meeting the United States goal to end preventable child and maternal deaths;

(2) supports the principles and goals of Gavi to—

(A) introduce and scale up new and routine immunizations in low-income countries;

(B) improve sustainability of immunization programs;

(C) ensure healthy markets for vaccines and related products; and

(D) strengthen health systems to increase equity in immunization;

(3) recognizes that United States Government support for Gavi is a critical component to ensuring health security in the United States;

(4) encourages the continued use of USAID maternal and child health and CDC global immunization resources to strengthen local public health capacity to introduce and sustain new and underutilized vaccines supported by Gavi through routine immunization systems;

(5) recognizes the need for multiyear pledges from the United States to allow Gavi to maximize its impact to provide lifesaving vaccines and to leverage contributions from other countries and donors; and

(6) encourages continued increased commitment and investment by the United States Government to Gavi in the 2026 to 2030 strategic period in order to ensure that lives are protected and saved through access to vaccines and immunizations.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 685—WELCOMING PRESIDENT SANTIAGO PENA OF PARAGUAY AND COMMEMORATING THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY AND THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 685

Whereas 2024 marks 163 years of official bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of Paraguay;

Whereas the shared values of democracy and the rule of law have always underpinned the bilateral relationship starting with the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation of 1859, done at Washington March 12, 1860;

Whereas the United States and Paraguay have enjoyed an especially strong partnership since Paraguay's transition to a democratically elected civilian government in 1989;

Whereas the United States and Paraguay have enjoyed bilateral economic cooperation, especially under the United States-Paraguay Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, done at Washington January 13, 2017;

Whereas the Parana River accounts for 80 percent of Paraguay's trade and is a lifeline to many communities;

Whereas the United States Senate appreciates mutual collaboration with Paraguay across many sectors, including supporting United States businesses operating in Paraguay and \$2,400,000,000 in trade in goods;

Whereas the United States is the second largest foreign investor in Paraguay, with hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign direct investment in Paraguay;

Whereas the United States has strongly supported and will continue to support democratic institutions, the rule of law, and economic opportunity in Paraguay, including working collaboratively to tackle corruption and support indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and youth in Paraguay;

Whereas the Governments of Paraguay and the United States have effectively partnered to address shared priorities across the hemisphere, including countering human trafficking, narcotics trafficking, money-laundering, and other illicit cross-border activities, as well as increasing cooperation in security and defense, cybersecurity, and promoting exchange programs;

Whereas Paraguay and the United States are aligned on key foreign policy priorities beyond the hemisphere;

Whereas Paraguay joined the United States and other democratic-oriented countries in key multilateral fora, including the United Nations and the Organization of American States to condemn Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas Paraguay has maintained a consistent and uninterrupted diplomatic relationship with Taiwan based on shared democratic values;

Whereas, alongside the United States, the Government of Paraguay has consistently supported Israel's right to self-defense;

Whereas the people and the Government of the United States celebrates the bilateral relationship with Paraguay and encourage a continuing close relationship;

Whereas Paraguayans in the United States have contributed and enriched American culture and have become an important part of United States society; and

Whereas President Santiago Peña was elected President of Paraguay in April 2023 in free and fair elections: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes the visit of President Santiago Peña;

(2) commemorates 163 years of official diplomatic relations between the United States and the Republic of Paraguay;

(3) recognizes the historical partnership between the United States and Paraguay rooted in shared values of democracy and the rule of law;

(4) reaffirms bilateral cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Paraguay to address pressing issues across the hemisphere;

(5) calls on the Department of State, the United States International Development Corporation, and the United States Agency For International Development to support efforts to improve the navigability of the Parana River through dredging and port modernization;

(6) expresses support for continuing to work towards shared foreign policy priorities; and