

and physical attacks, and the 1999 killing of journalist Slavko Ćuruvija remains unpunished after those formerly convicted for his murder were acquitted, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas in Slovakia, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, more than 6 years after the brutal killing of investigative reporter Ján Kuciak and his fiancée, Martina Kušnírová, and despite the hitmen and intermediaries receiving lengthy prison sentences, authorities have been unable to convict the alleged mastermind;

Whereas in Turkey, the Government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan maintains one of the world's most repressive environments for journalists and continues its revolving door policy on detaining journalists, with at least 13 journalists in jail in retaliation for their professional work at the time of the Committee to Protect Journalists' most recent prison census, which was published on December 1, 2023;

Whereas Hatice Duman, the longest imprisoned journalist in Turkey, who has been serving a life sentence on terrorism charges since April 9, 2003, told the Committee to Protect Journalists in November 2022 that she had little hope for freedom in her retrial, while her continuing retrial has not instigated any changes on the part of government authorities;

Whereas in Azerbaijan, the Government of Ilham Aliyev, who secured a fifth term in an uncompetitive early presidential election in February 2024, mounted a renewed assault on independent media in recent months by detaining 10 journalists, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, from outlets Abzas Media, Kanal 13, and Toplum TV; namely Ulvi Hasanli, Sevinj Vagifgizi, Mahammad Kekalov, Hafiz Babali, Elnara Gasimova, Nargiz Absalamova, Aziz Orujov, Shamo Eminov, Alasgar Mammadli, and Mushfig Jabbar, constituting a crackdown on journalists that was in part retaliation for their reporting on official corruption;

Whereas, the Government of Tajikistan continued its systematic repression of the free press in 2022 and 23 by sentencing 7 journalists to lengthy prison terms on spurious charges in secretive, closed-door trials held in detention centers amid allegations of torture and forced confessions, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, including—

(1) Ulfatkhonim Mamadshoeva, a 67-year-old ethnic Pamiri journalist and human rights defender, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison; and

(2) journalists Daler Imomali, Abdullo Ghurbati, Zavqibek Saidamini, and Abdusattor Pirmuhammadzoda, who were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 7 to 10 years on spurious charges of extremism;

Whereas the Government of Kyrgyzstan, since the beginning of 2022, has taken worrying steps to dismantle the country's previously vibrant press environment, including by—

(1) detaining 11 current and former staff of the investigative reporting outlet *Temirov Live*, who have reported on corruption allegations among high-level government officials, since January 2024, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(2) imposing spurious charges of illegal drug manufacture on Krygyzstan-born investigative journalist Bolot Temirov and deporting him to the Russian Federation in retaliation for his reporting on corruption in the government's procurement processes, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(3) shuttering and blocking investigative outlet *Kloop*, which is known for its reporting on high-level government corruption, ac-

cording to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

(4) enacting the so-called "Foreign Representatives" legislation, which will establish extensive state control over externally-funded press freedom groups and nongovernmental organizations that run prominent news sites; and

(5) raiding independent news agency *24.kg* on fabricated charges, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas in Algeria, press freedom continued to deteriorate at an alarming pace in 2023, with 3 journalists in jail as of December 2023, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 2 of whom are the country's most prominent journalists, including—

(1) Mustapha Bendjama, the editor-in-chief and director of local independent news website *Le Provincial*, who was arrested on February 8, 2023, on foreign funding charges and is currently serving a 6-month prison sentence for "committing an illegal immigration crime"; and

(2) Ihsane El Kadi, editor-in-chief of local independent news website *Maghreb Emergent* and *Radio M*, who was arrested in December 2022, and is serving a 7-year prison sentence on charges of receiving foreign funding for the news outlet he manages;

Whereas in Tunisia, press freedom has gravely deteriorated following President Kais Saied's dismissal of the prime minister on July 25, 2021, and his concomitant suspension of the Parliament of Tunisia, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in addition to the Tunisian Government's imprisonment of journalists in 2023, which evince a national context in which the government has broadly suppressed press freedom in the country, including by—

(1) raiding multiple local and foreign media outlets and news organizations, and security officers, in several cases, confiscating the organizations' broadcasting equipment and ordering their offices to close, notably the office of Al Jazeera; and

(2) approving a new constitution that is devoid of necessary protections for journalists to pursue their work without fear of censorship and repression;

Whereas United States journalists have been victimized while reporting abroad, including—

(1) Christopher Allen, who was killed while covering the conflict in South Sudan on August 26, 2017, and for whom there has been no credible investigation to pursue justice after nearly 7 years;

(2) Austin Tice, who was kidnapped in Syria and has been held in captivity since August 13, 2012;

(3) Brent Renaud, who was killed by Russian forces while covering the war in Ukraine on March 13, 2022;

(4) Evan Gershkovich, who was arrested in Russia on charges of espionage on March 29, 2023; and

(5) Alsu Kurmasheva, who holds dual United States-Russian citizenship, and who was arrested in Russia on October 18, 2023, on charges of failure to register as a foreign agent;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas press freedom—

(1) is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

(2) enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation in civil society and democratic governance: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies and democratic governance;

(B) contributes to an informed civil society and government accountability;

(C) helps to expose corruption;

(D) enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(E) disseminates information that is essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) expresses concerns about threats to the exercise of freedom of expression, including by the press, around the world;

(3) recognizes and commends journalism's role in providing trusted, accurate, and timely information and in holding governments and leaders accountable to citizens;

(4) recognizes the indispensable role of journalists and media outlets in informing voters and the international community about elections in multiple countries worldwide in 2024;

(5) pays tribute to journalists who made tremendous sacrifices, including the loss of their lives, in the pursuit of truth and justice;

(6) condemns all actions around the world that suppress press freedom and endanger the safety of journalists;

(7) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all wrongfully detained journalists;

(8) reaffirms the centrality of press freedom to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(9) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to press freedom, on the basis of the protections for freedom of the press afforded the American people under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(B) to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against American journalists;

(C) to support transparent investigations and efforts to ensure accountability for attacks against journalists of other nationalities; and

(D) to promote the respect and protection of press freedom around the world.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 689—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK, TO BE OBSERVED FROM MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2024

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

S. RES. 689

Whereas, beginning in 1921, National Hospital Day was established by former President Warren G. Harding to be celebrated annually on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, as a way to honor her role in revolutionizing hospital care;

Whereas National Hospital Day was established following the Spanish Flu Outbreak of

1918 as a way to build community trust in hospitals;

Whereas, beginning in 1953, National Hospital Week was established and continues to coincide with the birthday of Florence Nightingale;

Whereas National Hospital Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that hospitals make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas, in 2024, approximately 6,120 hospitals in the United States provide essential and life-saving health care every day in a variety of hospitals settings, including—

(1) 1,368 critical access hospitals, which serve as important health care hubs by bringing essential medical services closer to individuals who would otherwise have to travel long distances for health care, provide health care to ⅓ of the United States population residing in rural areas;

(2) nearly 1,700 teaching hospitals, of which roughly 300 are major teaching hospitals, such as university hospitals or academic medical centers, that provide essential training to future medical providers;

(3) 659 non-Federal psychiatric hospitals that are essential partners in addressing mental health and substance abuse disorders across the United States; and

(4) 172 Veterans Affairs medical centers that are uniquely responsible for providing health care to more than 9,000,000 veterans;

Whereas, in 2023, hospitals in the United States provided health care to more than 33,000,000 admitted patients, provided emergency care to nearly 137,000,000 patients, and delivered more than 3,500,000 babies;

Whereas, in 2024, hospitals employed more than 5,486,000 individuals, including physicians, registered nurses, and allied health professionals;

Whereas 45 percent of individuals employed by hospitals are non-clinical staff, including sanitation workers, food service workers, and many others, who work to keep hospitals open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in order to ensure hospitals are always available to individuals that need health care;

Whereas hospitals, through direct care and community outreach, can provide the expertise and resources needed to address the unique health care needs that exist in rural and urban areas of the United States; and

Whereas hospitals work collaboratively to uphold the health care system of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Hospital Week, to be observed from May 12 through May 18, 2024;

(2) recognizes the significant role that hospitals play in the delivery of health care in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hospital Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of hospitals to the everyday lives of patients and communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 690—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 15, 2024, AS “NATIONAL SENIOR FRAUD AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FRAUDULENT SCAMS TARGETED AT SENIORS IN THE UNITED STATES, TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO PREVENT THOSE SCAMS FROM HAPPENING, AND TO IMPROVE PROTECTIONS FROM THOSE SCAMS FOR SENIORS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RISCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 690

Whereas millions of individuals age 65 or older (referred to in this preamble as “seniors”) in the United States are targeted by scams each year, including vacation scams, Social Security impersonation scams and Internal Revenue Service impersonation scams, other government agency impersonation scams, veterans benefits scams, health and benefits scams, sweepstakes scams, romance scams, computer tech support scams, grandparent and person-in-need scams, debt collection scams, home improvement scams, fraudulent investment schemes, pet scams, job opportunity scams, timeshare exit scams, and identity theft;

Whereas other types of fraud perpetrated against seniors include Medicare impersonation fraud, health care fraud, health insurance fraud, counterfeit prescription drug fraud, funeral and cemetery fraud, “anti-aging” product fraud, telemarketing fraud, charity and disaster scams, internet fraud, and cyberattacks;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has estimated that seniors lose a staggering \$2,900,000,000 each year to an ever-growing array of financial exploitation schemes and scams;

Whereas, since 2013, the Fraud Hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 10,000 complaints reporting possible scams from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas the ease with which criminals contact seniors through the internet and telephone increases as more creative schemes emerge and scammers employ new technologies, such as artificial intelligence and “spoofing” of caller ID information, to fraudulently gain the trust of seniors;

Whereas, according to the Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book 2023 released by the Federal Trade Commission, individuals age 60 or older reported losing almost \$2,000,000,000 to fraud in 2023, with a median loss for victims age 80 or older of \$1,450, more than 3 times the median amount lost by those victims between the ages of 50 and 59;

Whereas senior fraud is underreported by victims due to shame, stigma, and lack of information about where to report fraud; and

Whereas May 15, 2024, is an appropriate day to establish as “National Senior Fraud Awareness Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 15, 2024, as “National Senior Fraud Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes National Senior Fraud Awareness Day as an opportunity to raise awareness about the barrage of scams that

individuals age 65 or older (referred to in this resolution as “seniors”) in the United States face in person, by mail, on the phone, via text message, and online;

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing the proliferation of scams targeting seniors in the United States; and

(B) educating seniors about those scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies to prevent scams targeting seniors; and

(B) the improvement of efforts to protect seniors from those scams; and

(5) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against scams targeting seniors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 691—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 17, 2024, AS “DIPG PEDIATRIC BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND ENCOURAGE RESEARCH ON, DIFFUSE INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA TUMORS AND PEDIATRIC CANCERS IN GENERAL

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 691

Whereas diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this preamble as “DIPG”) tumors regularly affect 200 to 300 children in the United States each year;

Whereas brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related death among children;

Whereas DIPG tumors are the leading cause of pediatric brain cancer deaths;

Whereas, with respect to a child who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor and receives treatment for a DIPG tumor, the median amount of time that the child survives after diagnosis is approximately 11 months;

Whereas, with respect to an individual who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor, the rate of survival 5 years after diagnosis is approximately 2 percent;

Whereas the average age at which a child is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor is between 5 and 10 years, resulting in a life expectancy approximately 70 years shorter than the average life expectancy in the United States; and

Whereas the prognosis for children diagnosed with DIPG tumors has not meaningfully improved during the past 50 years: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports designating May 17, 2024, as “DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day”;

(2) supports efforts—

(A) to better understand diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this resolution as “DIPG”) tumors;

(B) to develop effective treatments for DIPG tumors; and

(C) to provide comprehensive care for children with DIPG tumors and their families; and

(3) encourages all individuals in the United States to become more informed about—

(A) DIPG tumors;

(B) pediatric brain cancer in general; and

(C) challenges relating to research on pediatric cancers and ways to advance that research.