

in December of 2023, that can modify a patient's own hematopoietic stem cells to enable them to generate healthy red blood cells to prevent sickle cell crises;

Whereas hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as "HSCT") is currently the only cure for SCD, and while advancements in treatment for complications associated with SCD have been made, more research is needed to find widely available and accessible treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas, although June 19, 2024, has been designated as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day" to increase public awareness across the United States and global community about SCD, there remains a continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions relating to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day;

(2) commits to ensuring equitable access to new sickle cell disease (referred to in this resolution as "SCD") treatments by shining the light among all economic, racial, and ethnic groups to improve health outcomes for individuals living with SCD;

(3) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to create global policy solutions aimed at providing support for the global community with respect to SCD and, in partnership with local governments, the domestic resources needed to provide access to newborn screening programs, therapeutic interventions, and support services with respect to SCD;

(4) supports eliminating barriers to equitable access to innovative SCD therapies, including cell, gene, and gene-editing therapies in the Medicare and Medicaid systems for the most vulnerable patients;

(5) encourages the people of the United States and the world to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities on World Sickle Cell Awareness Day to raise public awareness of SCD traits, preventative-care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions relating to SCD;

(6) encourages the President to form a Sickle Cell Disease Interagency Group, which should include the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to work toward policies that will support equitable and appropriate access to innovative SCD therapies; and

(7) with respect to the policies described in paragraph (6), urges the interagency group described in that paragraph to consider options that not only address access to potential future curative treatments for SCD, but also address the bias that the population most affected by SCD continues to face within the United States and global healthcare systems.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 739—CELEBRATING THE HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNE 24, 2022, DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES IN DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr.

MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 739

Whereas the Declaration of Independence announces the self-evident truth that "all men are created equal" and "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights";

Whereas the first of those unalienable rights is the right to life;

Whereas modern science has illuminated our understanding of the humanity of unborn life;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States committed a grave injustice in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) (referred to in this preamble as "*Roe*"), by inventing a constitutional right to abortion, thereby denying a class of innocent people their right to life;

Whereas more than 63,000,000 unborn lives were lost to abortion under *Roe*;

Whereas, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022) (referred to in this preamble as "*Dobbs*"), corrected the grave injustice committed in *Roe*, by holding that "the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion" and that "*Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives";

Whereas many States have taken historic steps to protect unborn life since the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Dobbs*; and

Whereas many millions of people in the United States continue to press to protect unborn life and strengthen support for families charged with protecting that life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates 2 years since the ruling of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022) (referred to in this resolution as "*Dobbs*");

(2) celebrates the millions of lives that will be saved as a result of the ruling in *Dobbs*;

(3) commits to protecting the unalienable right to life and guarding unborn lives against lethal violence;

(4) commits to supporting families, including new and expectant mothers and their children; and

(5) commits to proclaiming the humanity of the unborn, consistent with the findings of modern science and the unswerving demands of justice.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 740—ACKNOWLEDGING AND APOLOGIZING FOR THE MISTREATMENT OF, AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES, THE FOREIGN SERVICES, AND THE FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE**

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Mr.

BROWN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 740

Whereas the Federal Government discriminated against and terminated hundreds of thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (referred to in this preamble as "LGBT") individuals who served the United States in the uniformed services, the Foreign Service, and the Federal civil service (referred to in this preamble as "civilian employees") for decades, causing untold harm to those individuals professionally, financially, socially, and medically, among other harms;

Whereas Congress enacted legislation, led oversight hearings, and issued reports and public pronouncements against LGBT military service members, Foreign Service members, and civilian employees;

Whereas the policy that led to the discharge and systematic screening of gay, lesbian, and bisexual military service members was codified in a 1949 decree by the newly consolidated Department of Defense, which mandated that "homosexual personnel, irrespective of sex, should not be permitted to serve in any branch of the Armed Forces in any capacity and prompt separation of known homosexuals from the Armed Forces is mandatory";

Whereas the Federal Government maintained policies to drive hundreds of thousands of LGBT military service members, who honorably served the United States in uniform, including many who were fighting in wars around the world, from its military ranks;

Whereas, in 1993, Congress enacted the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (Public Law 103-160; 107 Stat. 1547), which contained the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prohibited lesbian, gay, and bisexual military service members from disclosing their sexual orientation while they served in the Armed Forces;

Whereas, despite the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, LGBT military service members continued to be investigated and discharged solely on the basis of the sexual orientation of those military service members;

Whereas historians have estimated that at least 100,000 military service members were forced out of the uniformed services between World War II and 2011 simply for being LGBT, while countless others were forced to hide their identities and live in fear while serving, with many being denied access to the benefits granted to honorably discharged veterans;

Whereas, although the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was intended to allow qualified citizens to serve in the Armed Forces regardless of their sexual orientation, the policy was inherently discriminatory against LGBT military service members because it prohibited those service members from disclosing their sexual orientation;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (10 U.S.C. 654 note; Public Law 11321), Congress joined military leaders in acknowledging that lesbian, gay, and bisexual military service members serve the United States just as bravely and well as other military service members;

Whereas the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (10 U.S.C. 654 note; Public Law 11321) and the 2016 policy shift of the Department of Defense, which permitted transgender individuals to enlist and openly serve in the Armed Forces, have made the Armed Forces stronger and more effective;

Whereas, in 2023, 12 years after the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, the

Department of Defense announced a proactive review initiative to identify veterans discharged due to their sexual orientation and assess whether an upgrade in discharge is warranted;

Whereas military leaders have likewise acknowledged that, in addition to lesbian, gay, and bisexual military service members, transgender service members also serve the United States just as bravely and well as other service members;

Whereas, under the pressures of the Cold War, and at the instigation and lead of Congress, the Federal Government also pursued anti-LGBT policies, which resulted in tens of thousands of LGBT civilian employees being terminated;

Whereas the Department of State began investigations into employees for alleged homosexual activity as early as the 1940s;

Whereas following the targeting of gay employees in the Department of State by Senator Joseph McCarthy in 1950, the Senate held hearings on “The Employment of Homosexuals and other Sex Perverts in the Government”, which—

(1) led to the issuance of a widely read report that falsely asserted that gay people posed a security risk because they could be easily blackmailed; and

(2) found that gay people were unsuitable employees because “one homosexual can pollute a Government office”;

Whereas, in response to allegations against gay people made by Senator McCarthy, the Department of State increased its persecution of lesbian, gay, and bisexual employees;

Whereas more than 1,000 Department of State employees were dismissed due to their sexual orientation, and many more individuals were prevented from joining the Department of State due to discriminatory hiring practices;

Whereas thousands of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals served honorably in the Department of State as Foreign Service officers, Foreign Service specialists, civil servants, and contractors, upholding the values, and advancing the interests, of the United States even as the country discriminated against them;

Whereas the effort to purge gay and lesbian employees from the Federal Government was codified in 1953 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10450 (18 Fed. Reg. 2489; relating to security requirements for Government employment), which—

(1) defined “perversion” as a security threat; and

(2) mandated that every civilian employee and contractor pass a security clearance;

Whereas, over many decades, the Federal Government, led by security officials in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Civil Service Commission (referred to in this preamble as the “CSC”), and nearly every other agency of the Federal Government, investigated, harassed, interrogated, and terminated thousands of lesbian, gay, and bisexual civilian employees for no other reason than the sexual orientation of those employees;

Whereas these discriminatory policies by the Federal Government, the largest employer in the United States, encouraged similar efforts at the State and local level, particularly in higher education and the private sector;

Whereas, in 1969, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled in *Norton v. Macy*, 417 F.2d 1161 (1969) that—

(1) “homosexual conduct” may never be the sole cause for dismissal of a protected civilian employee; and

(2) the potential embarrassment stemming from the private conduct of a civilian employee may not affect the efficiency of the Federal civil service;

Whereas, despite the decision in *Norton v. Macy*, the CSC continued its efforts to rid the Federal Government of gay, lesbian, and bisexual employees until 1973, when the United States District Court for the Northern District of California ruled in *Society for Individual Rights, Inc. v. Hampton*, 63 F.R.D. 399 (1973) that the exclusion or discharge from Federal civil service of any lesbian, gay, or bisexual person because of prejudice was prohibited;

Whereas many Federal Government agencies, including the National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of State, none of which were subject to the rules of the CSC, continued to harass and seek to exclude lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals from their ranks until 1995, when President Bill Clinton issued Executive Order 12968 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to access to classified information), which barred the practice of denying a Federal Government security clearance solely on the basis of sexual orientation;

Whereas transgender military service members, Foreign Service members, and civilian employees continued to be harassed and excluded from Federal civil service until 2014, when President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13672 (79 Fed. Reg. 42971; relating to further amendments to Executive Order 11478, Equal Employment Opportunity in the Federal Government, and Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity), which prohibited the Federal Government and Federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas, on January 9, 2017, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a formal apology for the pattern of discrimination against LGBT Foreign Service members and civilian employees at the Department of State;

Whereas, despite persecution and systematic mistreatment by the Federal Government beginning in the early 1940s through the 1990s, including what historians have labeled as the “Lavender Scare”, LGBT individuals have never stopped honorably serving the United States;

Whereas LGBT individuals continued to make significant contributions to the United States through their work as clerks and lawyers, surgeons and nurses, Purple Heart recipients and Navy Seals, translators and air traffic controllers, engineers and astronomers, teachers and diplomats, rangers and Postal Service workers, and advisors and policy makers;

Whereas other countries throughout the world, including some of the closest allies of the United States, have apologized for similarly discriminating against LGBT military service members, Foreign Service members, and civilian employees; and

Whereas, in order for the United States to heal and move forward, the Federal Government must accord all LGBT individuals who were discriminated against by, wrongfully terminated by, and excluded from serving in the uniformed services, the Foreign Service, and the Federal civil service the same acknowledgment and apology: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*,

#### SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Senate—

(1) acknowledges and condemns the discrimination against, wrongful termination of, and exclusion from the Federal civil service, the Foreign Service, and the uniformed services of the thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (referred to in this section as “LGBT”) individuals who were affected by the anti-LGBT policies of the Federal Government;

(2) on behalf of the United States, apologizes to—

(A) the affected LGBT military service members, Foreign Service members, veterans, and Federal civil service employees; and

(B) the families of those service members, veterans, and Federal civil service employees; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Federal Government to treat all military service members, Foreign Service members, veterans, and Federal civil service employees and retirees, including LGBT individuals, with equal respect and fairness.

#### SEC. 2. DISCLAIMER.

Nothing in this resolution—

(1) authorizes or supports any claim against the United States; or

(2) serves as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 741—CONDEMNING THE ILLEGITIMATE REGIME OF NICOLÁS MADURO IN THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

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

S. RES. 741

Whereas, since 2005, the United States has imposed targeted sanctions on individuals and entities of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that have engaged in criminal, anti-democratic, unconstitutional, or corrupt acts and violated basic human rights;

Whereas, since 2006, the Secretary of State has determined that Venezuela is not “cooperating fully with United States anti-terrorism efforts” as outlined in section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2781);

Whereas, since coming to power in 2013, Nicolás Maduro and his illegitimate regime have committed numerous criminal, anti-democratic, unconstitutional, and corrupt acts and violated basic human rights, including—

(1) embezzling billions of dollars from the Venezuelan people, including through the illicit removal of gold from the Central Bank of Venezuela;

(2) declaring approximately 12 percent of the country to be a part of an “Orinoco Mining Arc” and using his position to oversee the exploitation of vital resources for personal gain; and

(3) establishing the Special Action Force of the National Police (FAES) in 2017, and utilizing them to execute illegal raids and extrajudicial killings;

Whereas, on January 5, 2019, the people of Venezuela responded to years of suffering and suppression under Nicolás Maduro by electing Juan Guaidó as President of the National Assembly of Venezuela, the only remaining democratically elected and legitimate institution in the country;

Whereas, upon being elected President of the National Assembly of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó invoked relevant articles of the Venezuelan constitution and became the Interim President of Venezuela;

Whereas, on January 10, 2019, Nicolás Maduro unlawfully reassumed the presidency of Venezuela, and his rule was deemed illegitimate by many Venezuelans and more than 50 countries, including most of the neighboring countries of Venezuela, the United States, and the majority of the European Union;

Whereas, since unlawfully reassuming the presidency in 2019, Nicolás Maduro has exacerbated ongoing economic and humanitarian crises, and forced more than 7,700,000 people to flee Venezuela;