

KELLY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 547

Whereas on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale, unprovoked, and illegal invasion of Ukraine, which followed Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014;

Whereas the United States assessed that Russia's goal for such invasion was to overthrow Ukraine's democratically-elected government and install a puppet regime;

Whereas the international community recognizes the full territorial integrity of Ukraine;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, the Ukrainian armed forces and the people of Ukraine have marshalled a determined resistance that has prevented Russia from taking control of their country;

Whereas more than 8,000,000 Ukrainian refugees have been forced to flee their homes as a result of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas in April 2022, evidence revealed that Russian forces had committed mass murder of more than 400 Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war in Bucha, Ukraine;

Whereas in May 2022, Russian forces completed a siege of the Ukrainian city of Mariupol, during which an estimated 25,000 Ukrainians were killed amid horrific humanitarian conditions, including the destruction of health and sanitary infrastructure;

Whereas evidence from cities attacked by Russian forces, including Bucha and Mariupol, confirm that Russian forces have employed rape as a weapon of war;

Whereas in addition to war crimes, Russia has committed genocide in Ukraine;

Whereas Russia has established filtration camps before the February 24, 2022 further invasion, through which more than 1,000,000 Ukrainians, including 200,000 children, have been registered, interrogated, and forcibly relocated to Russia as part of a widespread Russification campaign;

Whereas Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin have engaged in anti-Semitic propaganda, including calling for the de-Nazification of Ukraine;

Whereas almost all independent media outlets have been banned, blocked, or listed as "foreign agents" in Russia since the February 24, 2022 further invasion;

Whereas, in September 2022, Russia announced the illegal annexation of 4 Ukrainian regions, including the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts in the Donbas region;

Whereas Ukraine has launched successful counteroffensives to push back Russian forces, including in the cities of Kherson and Kharkiv;

Whereas hundreds of Russian missile attacks have intentionally targeted Ukrainian critical infrastructure, including energy infrastructure, and civilian population centers;

Whereas Iran has supplied Russia with drones, some of which have been used in strikes against critical Ukrainian infrastructure;

Whereas Russia has used energy as a weapon of war, including by manipulating oil and natural gas exports to Europe;

Whereas Russia has sought to interrupt global food supply chains by blocking Ukrainian grain exports at Ukrainian ports;

Whereas global food and gas prices have risen as a direct result of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas the Lukashenka regime in Belarus has supported Russia's further invasion of Ukraine and allowed Russia to use Belarusian territory as a staging ground for the invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas the Lukashenka regime has supported the illegal filtration of Ukrainians in Belarus;

Whereas in July 2023, Ukraine was reported to have more landmines than any other country in the world, with Russian forces using at least 13 different types of anti-personnel mines that do not distinguish between military and civilian targets;

Whereas Russia unilaterally withdrew from the Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports, done at Istanbul July 22, 2022 (commonly known as the "Black Sea Grain Initiative"), which had previously enabled the export of grain from Ukraine to keep global food prices stable, which has resulted in higher global food prices and the blocking of Ukrainian grain exports, which is a key component of Ukraine's economy;

Whereas Russia and Belarus have arrested peaceful protesters aligned with anti-war, pro-democracy movements in those countries that arose in response to Russia's further invasion;

Whereas on December 29, 2023, Russia launched its largest air attack against Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion, which killed 31 people;

Whereas the United States and its transatlantic allies have stood with Ukraine by supplying military and humanitarian aid and levying sanctions to respond to Russia's aggression and to defund Russia's war machine;

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has played a significant role in supporting Ukraine, including by bolstering NATO defenses, granting Finland's accession to NATO and formally inviting Sweden to join NATO;

Whereas support for Ukraine has resulted in the reinvestment of millions of dollars into the United States defense industrial base, which has bolstered local economies and provided good-paying jobs for American families; and

Whereas Ukraine continues to resist Russia's illegal and unprovoked further invasion in defense of its sovereignty and democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses condolences to the people of Ukraine for the loss of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian people since Russia's further invasion began on February 24, 2022;

(2) reaffirms the support of the United States for the full territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(3) continues to acknowledge that a sovereign Ukraine is necessary for peace and stability in Europe and around the world;

(4) commends NATO and the international community, including the United Nations, for their continued efforts to support human rights, peace, and democracy in Ukraine; and

(5) encourages the United States and the transatlantic community to continue to stand up to Russia's illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine and counter Russian aggression worldwide.

SENATE RESOLUTION 548—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH 9, 2024, AS "NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK"

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR,

Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 548

Whereas school counselors are more important now than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the mental health crisis among the youth of the United States;

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated February 5 through 9, 2024, as "National School Counseling Week";

Whereas school counselors have long advocated for all students;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding students through academic learning, social and emotional development, and career exploration;

Whereas personal and social growth can help lead to increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in ensuring that students are ready for both college and careers;

Whereas school counselors play a vital role in making students aware of opportunities for financial aid and college scholarships;

Whereas school counselors assist with and coordinate efforts to foster a positive school climate, resulting in a safer learning environment for all students;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in their communities and the United States;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, bullying, mental health issues, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas a school counselor is one of the few professionals in a school building who is trained in both education and social and emotional development;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

Whereas the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors is 408 to 1, almost twice the 250 to 1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week will increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 5 through 9, 2024, as "National School Counseling Week"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National School Counseling Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors play in schools and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 17 THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2024, AS “NATIONAL FFA WEEK”, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION IN DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBALLY CONSCIOUS LEADERS WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD, AND CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE “GIVE THE GIFT OF BLUE” PROGRAM, WHICH HAS DONATED MORE THAN 17,000 OF THE ICONIC FFA BLUE JACKETS TO FFA MEMBERS IN NEED

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ERNST, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 549

Whereas the National FFA Organization (referred to in this preamble as the “FFA”) was established in 1928;

Whereas the mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education;

Whereas the FFA has more than 945,000 members in 9,163 chapters in all 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the FFA welcomes all students;

Whereas more than 13,000 FFA advisors and agricultural education teachers deliver an integrated model of agricultural education, providing students with an innovative and cutting-edge education;

Whereas the FFA facilitates formative experiences, altering the course of students’ lives for the better;

Whereas FFA members develop the necessary career-readiness skills to continue their education in college or to enter the workforce immediately;

Whereas the FFA prepares members to be globally conscious citizens of their community, their State, their country, and the world;

Whereas the FFA provides opportunities to demonstrate literacy, advocacy, and technical skills in agriculture, food, and natural resources;

Whereas the blue jacket originated in 1933 in Fredericktown, Ohio and was created by the Universal Uniform Company;

Whereas the blue jacket debuted at the 1933 National FFA Convention and was so

popular the convention’s official delegates made the blue jacket part of the official FFA attire;

Whereas 17,000 FFA blue jackets have been given to FFA members in need since 2014; and

Whereas members of the FFA will celebrate “National FFA Week” during the week of February 17 through February 24, 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of February 17 through February 24, 2024, as “National FFA Week”;

(2) recognizes the important role of the National FFA Organization (referred to in this resolution as the “FFA”) in developing the next generation of globally conscious leaders who will change the world; and

(3) celebrates the 10th anniversary of the “Give the Gift of Blue” program, which has donated more than 17,000 of the iconic FFA blue jackets to FFA members in need.

SENATE RESOLUTION 550—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH”

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 550

Whereas a competitive global economy requires workers who are prepared for skilled professions;

Whereas not fewer than 17,000,000 new workers will be needed to support the infrastructure sector of the United States through 2031, including to design, build, and operate transportation, housing, utilities, and telecommunications;

Whereas advancements in technology have fundamentally changed critical economic sectors of the United States and the global economy, creating significant, new demand for high-wage, high-quality, and efficient education and training opportunities;

Whereas career and technical education (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) ensures that a competitive and skilled workforce is ready, willing, and capable of holding jobs in high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand career fields;

Whereas CTE helps the United States meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness;

Whereas, in the United States, it is forecast that nearly ⅓ of all jobs will require some level of postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor’s degree, by 2031;

Whereas 11,500,000 students are enrolled in CTE programs across the United States at the secondary and postsecondary levels, with CTE programs in thousands of comprehensive high schools, area technical centers, and career academies and in over 1,000 two-year colleges;

Whereas CTE aligns with labor market demand and provides students with employability skills and relevant academic and technical coursework leading to credentials of value for secondary and postsecondary education levels and adult learners;

Whereas CTE affords students the opportunity to cultivate the knowledge and skills to earn the credentials needed to secure careers in growing, high-demand fields;

Whereas secondary CTE is associated with a lower probability of dropping out of high school and a higher likelihood of graduating high school on time;

Whereas, according to a recent national survey conducted by the Hunt Institute and Lake Research Partners, 94 percent of parents and voters favor increased opportunities for students to access workforce training and related opportunities to cultivate skills needed for a career;

Whereas students at schools with highly integrated, rigorous academics and CTE programs are significantly more likely to meet college and career readiness benchmarks than students at schools with less integrated programs;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress affirmed the importance of CTE by passing the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Public Law 115-224; 132 Stat. 1563), which supports investment and improvement in secondary and postsecondary CTE programs in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and outlying areas; and

Whereas February 23, 2024, marks the 107th anniversary of the signing of the Act of February 23, 1917 (39 Stat. 929, chapter 114, commonly known as the “Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act of 1917”), which was the first major Federal investment in secondary CTE and laid the foundation for the bipartisan, bicameral support for CTE that continues as of February 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of February 2024 as “Career and Technical Education Month” to celebrate career and technical education across the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month;

(3) recognizes the importance of career and technical education in preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce in the United States; and

(4) encourages educators, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals, administrators, and parents to promote career and technical education as a respected educational pathway for students.

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. BUTLER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. REED, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SANDERS,