

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,

Ms. HASSAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KING, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 551

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”;

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, in 2024, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Elijah Cummings, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, Toni Morrison, Gwen Ifill, Diahann Carroll, Chadwick Boseman, John Lewis, Katherine Johnson, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Hank Aaron, Edith Savage-Jennings, Septima Clark, Mary McLeod Bethune, Cicely Tyson, John Hope Franklin, Colin Powell, bell hooks, Bob Moses, Sidney Poitier, Bill Russell, and Chief Justice of South Carolina Ernest Finney, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved,

and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History”, to enhance knowledge of Black history through *The Journal of Negro History*, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, “We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.’”;

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to try again;

Whereas, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American man, as President of the United States; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN V. BERDEN, ET AL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 552

Whereas, in the case of *People of the State of Michigan v. Berden, et al.*, Case Nos. 23-02209-FY *et seq.*, pending in the 54-A District Court in the City of Lansing, Michigan, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *People of the State of Michigan v. Berden, et al.*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN A. CARNAHAN, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY,