

Whereas all inherited ataxias affect fewer than 200,000 individuals in the United States and, therefore, are recognized as rare diseases under the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049);

Whereas some genetic ataxias are inherited in an autosomal dominant manner while others are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner;

Whereas ataxia symptoms can also be caused by noninherited health conditions and other factors, including stroke, tumor, cerebral palsy, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, alcohol addiction or misuse, and certain medications;

Whereas ataxia can present physical, psychological, and financial challenges for patients and their families;

Whereas symptoms and outcomes of ataxia progress at different rates and can include—

- (1) lack of coordination;
- (2) slurred speech;
- (3) cardiomyopathy;
- (4) scoliosis;
- (5) eye movement abnormalities;
- (6) difficulty walking;
- (7) tremors;
- (8) trouble eating and swallowing;
- (9) difficulties with other activities that require fine motor skills; and
- (10) death;

Whereas many patients with ataxia require the use of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and walkers, to aid in their mobility, and many individuals with ataxia may need physical and occupational therapy;

Whereas few treatments and no cures have been approved for ataxia; and

Whereas clinical research to develop safe and effective treatments for ataxia is ongoing; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes the need for greater public awareness of ataxia;
- (2) designates September 25, 2024, as “National Ataxia Awareness Day”;
- (3) supports the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day, which are—
 - (A) to raise awareness of the causes and symptoms of ataxia among the general public and health care professionals;
 - (B) to improve diagnosis of ataxia and access to care for patients affected by ataxia; and
 - (C) to accelerate ataxia research, including on safe and effective treatment options and, ultimately, a cure;
- (4) recognizes the individuals in the United States who face challenges due to having ataxia, and the families of those individuals; and
- (5) encourages States, territories, and localities to support the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 795—CONDEMNING THE BOTCHED ROLLOUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE FAFSA SIMPLIFICATION ACT

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 795

Whereas the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116-

260) was intended to make the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (referred to in this preamble as “FAFSA”) simpler and easier to complete for the 2024–2025 academic year;

Whereas the Department of Education (referred to in this preamble as the “Department”) reported on May 24, 2024, that it had processed more than 10,000,000 FAFSA applications for the 2024–2025 academic year;

Whereas, in previous years, the FAFSA application for an academic year opened on October 1st of the preceding year;

Whereas the 2024–2025 FAFSA launched on December 31, 2023;

Whereas, in previous years, the Department sent out student FAFSA data to institutions of higher education just days after the student filed their FAFSA application;

Whereas, for the 2024–2025 school year, the Department did not start sending student FAFSA data to institutions of higher education until the beginning of March;

Whereas many students did not receive financial aid awards until after National College Decision Day on May 1, 2024;

Whereas Department officials were aware of implementation challenges associated with the rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act as early as December 2020;

Whereas students in pursuit of attending institutions of higher education across the United States depend on the resources made available by FAFSA;

Whereas the FAFSA delays have been particularly burdensome for students in foster care and youth experiencing homelessness;

Whereas the delay in the 2024–2025 FAFSA application timeline cut down the time students had to weigh options when considering financial components for attending institutions of higher education; and

Whereas many offices of financial aid in institutions of higher education fear that this delay will discourage students from attending a college or university in the fall of 2024; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) strongly condemns the delayed and problematic rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116-260);
- (2) calls for the Department of Education to take the necessary actions to identify the issues that led to the botched rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act and fix them for the 2025–2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid cycle; and
- (3) urges the Secretary of Education to testify before the relevant congressional committees regarding the rollout of the FAFSA Simplification Act.

SENATE RESOLUTION 796—CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA AND MALIGN ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE COMMITTED BY THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN CUBA

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

S. RES. 796

Whereas Freedom House’s Freedom in the World 2024 Report states, “Cuba’s one-party Communist state outlaws political pluralism, bans independent media, suppresses

dissent, and severely restricts basic civil liberties.”;

Whereas the Department of State’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, in addition to numerous international human rights organizations, established that the Communist regime in Cuba continues to violate the tenets of the Covenant Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted at New York December 10, 1984, to which Cuba is a signatory;

Whereas the Cuban regime has imprisoned or continues to harass thousands of Cuban citizens, including youths who participated in the unprecedented July 11, 2021, demonstrations on behalf of freedom for Cuba;

Whereas the Department of State’s annual Trafficking in Persons Report continues to cite Cuba as a Tier 3 country due to its failure to fully comply with the minimum standards against human trafficking, and further designates Cuba as a state sponsor of human trafficking;

Whereas, in this regard, the Cuban regime sends medical personnel overseas into servitude in Mexico and other countries in which they are paid only 10 to 25 percent of what the host nation compensates Cuba for their services and denies them their fundamental rights;

Whereas Cuba continues to be a source of regional instability, as noted by a United Nations independent fact-finding mission report in 2022 that found Cuban personnel were advising and instructing Venezuelan intelligence agencies committing crimes against humanity in Venezuela;

Whereas Cuban security assistance to Venezuelan narco-terrorist dictator Nicolás Maduro emboldens him to continue to resist free and fair elections in Venezuela and has resulted in thousands of Venezuelans fleeing the country and contributing to overwhelming numbers of illegal United States border crossings;

Whereas the Cuban regime uses illegal immigration as a weapon to overwhelm the United States border by profiting from international smuggling, exporting dissent, infiltrating spies, and fortifying a self-serving black market economy;

Whereas the Cuban regime maintains mutually supportive relationships with Iran, Syria, and North Korea, the three other countries the United States has designated as state sponsors of terrorism;

Whereas Cuba harbors United States fugitives from justice wanted on charges of political violence, including the murders of United States law enforcement officers, including fugitives who have resided in Cuba for decades and criminals such as Joanne Chesimard, Guillermo Morales, Charlie Hill, Victor Manuel Gerena, who are responsible for planning and carrying out violent crimes against Americans;

Whereas the Cuban regime maintains mutually supportive relationships with groups the United States has designated as foreign terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Colombia’s National Liberation Army;

Whereas the Cuban regime also maintains mutually supportive relationships with anti-American countries such as Iran, Russia, and China;

Whereas the Cuban regime has been one of the most active defenders of Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, providing diplomatic support and votes in international fora, serving as an amplifier of Russian propaganda on a global scale, and sending Cubans to fight on behalf of Putin;

Whereas the Cuban regime has allowed Russian warships, including a nuclear-powered submarine, to conduct military exercises in the Caribbean, bringing the flotilla

within 30 nautical miles from the United States' coast;

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported in June 2023 that the Cuban regime has allowed China to establish an electronic surveillance facility on the island, which "would allow Chinese intelligence services to scoop up electronic communications throughout the Southeastern U.S., where many military bases are located, and monitor U.S. ship traffic"; and

Whereas it has been the longstanding goal of United States policy to bring about freedom, prosperity, and democracy to the Cuban people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) opposes any revision of United States policy towards Cuba as established in United States law until the Cuban regime changes the above policies and its hostility towards the United States;

(2) believes that the promotion of democracy abroad is a core foreign policy objective of the United States Congress;

(3) believes that the spread of democracy globally preserves the security of the United States and enhances our Nation's prosperity;

(4) calls on the United States Government to use every diplomatic tool to persuade foreign governments and international organizations to join its efforts and coordinate activities to bring freedom and democracy to Cuba;

(5) believes that the United States should work with allies and like-minded democracies to seek Cuba's expulsion from the United Nations Human Rights Council;

(6) believes that, due to Cuba's mutually supportive relationships with foreign terrorist organizations and state sponsors of terrorism, the Secretary of State should maintain Cuba on the Department of State's State Sponsors of Terrorism list;

(7) encourages the United States Trade Representative to enter in consultations with the Government of Mexico and all the other countries that engage in the trafficking of Cuban doctors, not just in Mexico but in all other countries that are in violation of the labor provisions of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA);

(8) calls on the Department of State to submit biannual reports to Congress on March 1st and September 1st of each year on its efforts to bring freedom and democracy to Cuba based on the principles outlined in this resolution; and

(9) emphasizes the readiness of the people of the United States to assist the Cuban people, who are emerging from a decades-long authoritarian nightmare, to rebuild their lives and country and to rejoin the community of free, peaceful, and democratic nations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 797—DESIGNATING AUGUST 16, 2024, AS "NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY"

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. KING, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 797

Whereas the members of the airborne forces of the Armed Forces of the United States have a long and honorable history as bold and fierce warriors who, for the na-

tional security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the ground combat power of the United States by air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and to the far corners of the world;

Whereas, on June 25, 1940, experiments with airborne operations by the United States began after the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War;

Whereas, in July 1940, 48 volunteers began training for the Army Parachute Test Platoon;

Whereas the first official Army parachute jump took place on August 16, 1940, to test the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the success of the Army Parachute Test Platoon, before the entry of the United States into World War II, validated the airborne operational concept and led to the creation of a formidable force of airborne formations that included the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, and 101st Airborne Divisions;

Whereas included in those divisions, and among other separate formations, were many airborne combat, combat support, and combat service support units that served with distinction and achieved repeated success in armed hostilities during World War II;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne units during World War II prompted the evolution of those units into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the members of the United States airborne forces, including members of the XVIII Airborne Corps, the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 11th Airborne Division, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special operations forces of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force, and other units of the Armed Forces, have demonstrated bravery and honor in combat, stability, and training operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other theaters in the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas the continued evolution of United States Army airborne units allowed for the reactivation of the 11th Airborne Division on June 6, 2022, to lead the Armed Forces of the United States in Arctic warfighting capabilities, support United States Indo-Pacific Command operations, and continue the storied legacy of the 11th Airborne Division that dates back to World War II;

Whereas the modern airborne forces also include other elite forces composed of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance Battalions, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control and pararescue teams;

Whereas, of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, dozens have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are all members of a proud and honorable tradition that, together with the special skills and achievements of those members, distin-

guishes the members as intrepid combat parachutists, air assault forces, special operation forces, and, in the past, glider infantry;

Whereas individuals from every State of the United States have served gallantly in the airborne forces, and each State is proud of the contributions of its paratrooper veterans during the many conflicts faced by the United States;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the people of the United States; and

Whereas, since the airborne forces, past and present, celebrate August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 is an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 16, 2024, as "National Airborne Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 798—COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANN GULCH FIRE BY DESIGNATING AUGUST 5, 2024, AS "MANN GULCH MEMORIAL TRIBUTE DAY"

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 798

Whereas, on August 5, 1949, the United States was shocked by a wildland fire-fighting tragedy in which 12 United States Forest Service smokejumpers and 1 district fire guard, a former smokejumper, tragically died when they were overtaken by a raging Mann Gulch forest fire in the Helena National Forest;

Whereas the smokejumpers answered a routine fire call from their base in Missoula, Montana, and after successfully landing by parachutes near the fire and beginning the process to contain and extinguish it, they were trapped as the fire exploded beneath them;

Whereas 8 of the 13 men who lost their lives were United States military veterans who served with distinction in World War II;

Whereas Bob Salle, 1 of 3 smokejumpers who survived the fire stated on the occasion of the 50th Mann Gulch Anniversary Memorial, "It is time to rededicate ourselves to the memory of these fine young men and the lesson they best taught us, that wildfires are, and always will be, dangerous and we must respect its potential to put a fire fighter in harm's way. Life is precious—and for some very short";

Whereas on the 75th Anniversary of this tragedy the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and the National Smokejumpers Association will honor the memory of these young men by organizing memorial tribute activities—

(1) in Helena, Montana;

(2) at Mann Gulch; and

(3) at each of the 13 individual gravesites across the United States in Montana, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, North Carolina, and California;

Whereas this tragedy resulted in improved training, safety equipment, and fire-fighting strategies and the development of scientific research in fire behavior; and

Whereas, in the words of a sister of one of the Mann Gulch fatalities, "You think back,