

Armed Forces was an “unacceptable risk” to morale, good order, discipline, and unit cohesion, and required the Armed Forces to discharge servicemembers who—

(1) engaged in, attempted to engage in, or solicited “homosexual acts”;

(2) stated that they were homosexual or bisexual; or

(3) married or attempted to marry a same-sex partner;

Whereas the Department of Defense has acknowledged that 13,472 personnel were discharged from the Armed Forces under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, and an additional 19,365 personnel were discharged between 1980 and 1993 under similar policies that targeted servicemembers based on sexual orientation;

Whereas the White House estimates that more than 100,000 servicemembers have been discharged from the Armed Forces for their sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas, on September 20, 2011, the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy was officially repealed, 60 days after President Barack Obama approved its repeal on July 22, 2011, by signing the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010 (10 U.S.C. 654 note; Public Law 111-321);

Whereas, on June 30, 2016, the Department of Defense announced an end to the ban on transgender servicemembers across all components of the Department of Defense;

Whereas, on July 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump announced that transgender people would not be allowed to serve in the military;

Whereas, on January 25, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed Executive Order 14004 (86 Fed. Reg. 7471; relating to enabling all qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform), which repealed the 2017 ban on transgender military servicemembers;

Whereas the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have taken steps to address the harms done to LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans under these discriminatory policies;

Whereas, in March 2021, the Secretary of Defense announced new policies to undo the President Trump-era rules banning transgender people from serving in the military;

Whereas those policies included a statement that the Defense Health Agency would develop clinical practice guidelines to support the medical treatment of servicemembers with gender dysphoria, a step that has not yet been completed;

Whereas, on June 19, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs would remove the exclusion of gender-affirming surgery from the Veterans Affairs Medical Benefits package, but the Department of Veterans Affairs has yet to fulfill that promise;

Whereas, on September 20, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs issued the “Benefits Eligibility for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Former Service Members (VIEWS 5810856)” memorandum detailing how certain former servicemembers discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy with “other than honorable” discharges could begin to access full veterans benefits;

Whereas, on September 20, 2023, the Deputy Secretary of Defense announced that the Department of Defense would proactively review the military records of certain veterans discharged under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy to identify those who may be eligible for discharge upgrades;

Whereas, on April 25, 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs posted a final rule eliminating the regulatory bar for “homosexual acts involving aggravating circumstances or

other factors affecting the performance of duty” as an obstacle to benefits, which could help reduce the disparity that LGBTQ+ veterans face in applying for their benefits;

Whereas, on June 26, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden pardoned veterans who had been convicted in military courts for consensual sodomy between 1951 and 2013 under former article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

Whereas challenges still exist for LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans seeking equitable treatment in service and access to benefits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 20, 2024, as “National LGBTQ+ Veterans Day”;

(2) celebrates the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this resolution as “LGBTQ+”) servicemembers and veterans who have served in the Armed Forces;

(3) regrets the harm done to LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy and earlier policies, bans on transgender servicemembers, and other policies that discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity;

(4) recognizes how “other than honorable” and “dishonorable” discharges given to LGBTQ+ servicemembers on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity—

(A) prematurely terminated the careers of LGBTQ+ servicemembers in the Armed Forces;

(B) subjected LGBTQ+ servicemembers to the trauma of investigations and criminal charges;

(C) unfairly denied LGBTQ+ servicemembers the honor associated with military service;

(D) deprived LGBTQ+ servicemembers of benefits those servicemembers have earned and deserve as veterans; and

(E) continue to cause LGBTQ+ servicemembers dignitary harm;

(5) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to—

(A) continue implementing policy changes that restore justice and right historical wrongs caused by past government-sponsored discrimination; and

(B) conduct further outreach for LGBTQ+ veteran communities to ensure that those discharged based on their sexual orientation and gender identity can receive their benefits;

(6) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to ensure that transgender veterans and servicemembers and their families have access to the full range of health care, including gender-affirming care; and

(7) urges the Department of Veterans Affairs to remove the exclusion of gender-affirming surgery from the Veterans Affairs Medical Benefits Package.

SENATE RESOLUTION 825—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EQUAL PAY AND THE PAY DISPARITY BETWEEN DISABLED WOMEN AND BOTH DISABLED AND NONDISABLED MEN

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 825

Whereas, more than 60 years after Congress enacted the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (29 U.S.C. 206 note; Public Law 88-38), an analysis of data from the Bureau of the Census shows that disabled women workers overall are paid an average of 50 cents for every dollar paid to nondisabled men;

Whereas an analysis by the National Partnership for Women & Families of data from the Bureau of the Census shows that—

(1) for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic, nondisabled men—

(A) disabled Asian-American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women are paid 55 cents;

(B) disabled White, non-Hispanic women are paid 45 cents;

(C) disabled Black women are paid 45 cents;

(D) disabled American Indian and Alaska Native women are paid 45 cents; and

(E) disabled Latinas are paid 44 cents;

(2) disabled women are paid an average of 72 cents for every dollar paid to disabled men;

(3) disabled people overall are paid an average of 68 cents for every dollar paid to nondisabled people; and

(4) while disabled people overall experience a wage gap, disabled women, particularly disabled women of color, experience a more significant wage gap;

Whereas, of the 6 types of disability assessed in the American Community Survey—

(1) disabled women workers with each type of disability face a wage gap, as compared to nondisabled men; and

(2) the wage gap is largest for disabled women workers who have difficulty living independently, who are paid just 36 cents for every dollar paid to nondisabled men workers;

Whereas disabled women veterans are paid an average of 62 cents for every dollar paid to nondisabled veteran men;

Whereas the wage gap remains large for disabled women with more education, as disabled women workers with 4 years of college education are typically paid \$41,600 per year, which is less than nondisabled men workers with a high school degree as their highest level of education;

Whereas disabled women experience occupational segregation and are overrepresented in low-paid health care, clerical, and social service jobs;

Whereas disabled women and men workers who live in institutional group quarters are paid an average of just \$9,000 per year for disabled women workers and \$11,000 per year for disabled men workers, respectively, while nondisabled men overall are typically paid an average of \$50,000 per year;

Whereas segregated workplaces and the subminimum wage for disabled employees stifle competitive integrated employment for disabled women;

Whereas many systemic barriers affect access to livable wages and employment opportunities for disabled women, including—

(1) discrimination;

(2) public benefits work disincentives;

(3) a broken health care infrastructure;

(4) increased employment-related costs;

(5) inadequate vocational rehabilitation services; and

(6) a lack of access to supported employment services; and

Whereas LGBTQI+ disabled people face additional barriers to employment, and more inclusive data on LGBTQI+ disabled workers is needed to determine the added impact on wages and workforce participation, particularly for trans and nonbinary disabled people who are often excluded from data: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the pay disparity between disabled women and both disabled and non-disabled men and the impact of that pay disparity on women, families, and the United States; and

(2) reaffirms its commitment to supporting equal pay for disabled women, narrowing the gender, disability, and racial wage gaps, and addressing the systemic barriers that drive those inequities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 826—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2024, AS “MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. MURPHY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 826

Whereas malnutrition is the condition that occurs when a person does not get enough protein, calories, or nutrients;

Whereas malnutrition is a significant problem in the United States and around the world, crossing all age, racial, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas malnutrition can be driven by social determinants of health, including poverty or economic instability, access to affordable health care, and low health literacy;

Whereas there are inextricable and cyclical links between poverty and malnutrition;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture defines food insecurity as when a person or household does not have regular, reliable access to the foods needed for good health;

Whereas communities of color, across all age groups, are disproportionately likely to experience both food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native households are at significantly greater risk for food insecurity than all households in the United States;

Whereas 1 in 18 Asian Americans and 1 in 5 Pacific Islanders experience food insecurity;

Whereas Black children are almost 3 times more likely to live in a food-insecure household than White children;

Whereas infants, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has found that failure to provide key nutrients during early childhood may result in lifelong deficits in brain function;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition affects between 30 and 50 percent of patients admitted to hospitals, and the medical costs of hospitalized patients with malnutrition can be 300 percent more than the medical costs of properly nourished patients;

Whereas deaths from malnutrition have increased among adults 85 and older since 2013;

Whereas, according to the “National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update”, as many as half of older adults living in the United States are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas, according to recent Aging Network surveys, 76 percent of older adults receiving meals at senior centers and other congregate facilities report improved health outcomes, and 84 percent of older adults receiving home-delivered meals indicate the same;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition in older adults alone costs the United States more than \$51,300,000,000 each year; and

Whereas the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition established “Malnutrition Awareness Week” to raise awareness and promote prevention of malnutrition across the lifespan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Malnutrition Awareness Week”;

(2) recognizes registered dietitian nutritionists and other nutrition professionals, health care providers, school food service workers, social workers, advocates, caregivers, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness, treatment, and prevention of malnutrition;

(3) recognizes the importance of existing Federal nutrition programs, like the nutrition programs established under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and Federal child nutrition programs, for their role in combating malnutrition, and supports increased funding for these critical programs;

(4) recognizes—

(A) the importance of medical nutrition therapy under the Medicare Program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

(B) the need for vulnerable populations to have access to nutrition counseling;

(5) recognizes the importance of the innovative research conducted by the National Institutes of Health on—

(A) nutrition, dietary patterns, and the human gastrointestinal microbiome; and

(B) how those factors influence the prevention or development of chronic disease throughout the lifespan;

(6) supports access to malnutrition screening and assessment for all patients;

(7) encourages the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to evaluate the implementation of newly approved malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures;

(8) supports the ongoing work of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health and its work to address malnutrition; and

(9) acknowledges the importance of healthy food access for children, especially in childcare settings and schools, and the benefits of evidence-based nutrition standards.

SENATE RESOLUTION 827—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, AS “NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK”

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 827

Whereas 3,500,000 citizens of the United States navigate the roads and highways of the United States as professional truck drivers;

Whereas the trucking industry is the backbone of our economy, and truck drivers play an essential role in moving our great country forward;

Whereas the quality of life that the people of the United States enjoy would not be possible without the steadfast dedication demonstrated by truck drivers;

Whereas truckers of the United States drive over 330,000,000,000 miles each year, the

equivalent of nearly 1,800 round trips to the sun, to deliver daily necessities and other consumer goods;

Whereas truck drivers make many sacrifices, including time away from their families, to fulfill their important responsibilities and get shipments where they need to be on time, safely, and securely;

Whereas truck drivers transport more than 11,000,000,000 tons of freight each year, which is about 70 percent of all the freight moved in the United States;

Whereas more than 80 percent of United States communities rely exclusively on truck drivers to deliver their commodities, including the most remote towns and territories that are unreachable by other modes of transportation;

Whereas the commitment of truck drivers ensures the delivery of vital public services, such as medical supplies, food distribution, and emergency relief during crises, making their role indispensable to the well-being of the United States;

Whereas truck drivers play an essential role in maintaining national security by transporting critical military equipment, supplies, and personnel in support of defense operations, ensuring the readiness and mobility of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas hundreds of billions of safe driving miles accumulated by truck drivers each year are a source of pride and reflect their unique skills and commitment to excellence;

Whereas the diligence and attention to detail displayed by truck drivers are critical to protecting the safety of all roadway users;

Whereas the partnership between truck drivers and law enforcement brings eyes and ears to every corner of the country, helping to identify and rescue countless victims of human trafficking;

Whereas the people of the United States owe a debt of gratitude to truck drivers for the work they do and the altruistic example they set to put food on our tables, keep our homes comfortable, and support our families and jobs;

Whereas this year marks the 36th annual National Truck Driver Appreciation Week;

Whereas, during National Truck Driver Appreciation Week, the people of the United States extend their most sincere thanks to professional truck drivers; and

Whereas the purpose of National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is to—

(1) raise public awareness about the invaluable contributions of truck drivers; and

(2) promote greater respect for and understanding of the essential work that truck drivers do: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) thanks the professional truck drivers of the United States; and

(2) promotes the profession of truck driving by encouraging the public to recognize National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 828—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT EVERY PERSON HAS THE BASIC RIGHT TO EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING ABORTION CARE

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr.