

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young individuals are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that individuals do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, institutions and individuals that influence youth must make conscientious efforts to help young individuals develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young individuals to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young individuals in the United States, to adopt the elements of character, which are intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of “National Character Counts Week”, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 20, 2024, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe National Character Counts Week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 843—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL LEARNING DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 843

Whereas in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401), a specific learning disability—

(1) is defined as a disorder in 1 or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations;

(2) includes conditions such as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia; and

(3) does not include a learning problem that is primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor disabilities, of intellectual disabilities, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage;

Whereas a specific learning disability is the most prevalent disability of students who are served by parts A through D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), impacting 34 percent of all students who received special education services;

Whereas, for academic year 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress reports that—

(1) more than 95 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in reading; and

(2) more than 93 percent of 4th and 8th grade students with a specific learning disability were not proficient in math;

Whereas the math and reading scores reported by the National Assessment of Educational Progress for academic year 2022 indicate that Black and Hispanic students with a specific learning disability experience greater opportunity gaps than White and Asian students;

Whereas research shows that students with specific learning disabilities can achieve success commensurate with their peers, if given appropriate instruction and support;

Whereas developmentally appropriate universal screening should begin as early as possible to assess which students demonstrate the most pervasive risk factors for specific learning disabilities; and

Whereas research rooted in the science of reading establishes an evidence base of effective instructional methods for developing reading skills for students with or at risk for specific learning disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as “National Learning Disabilities Awareness Month”; and

(2) calls on State and local education agencies to continue to meet the needs of students with specific learning disabilities through a free and appropriate public education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 844—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 844

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exon-

eration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the week of September 15, 2024, to September 21, 2024, is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact and invite local media outlets to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the week of September 15, 2024, to September 21, 2024, to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND
PROPOSED

SA 3293. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3293. Mr. DURBIN (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4698, to authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

**SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 708 OF THE
HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iii)(II), by adding “and” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) a staffing plan for each Joint Task Force;”;

(B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

“(C) not later than December 23, 2024, and annually thereafter, submit to the committees specified in subparagraph (B) a report containing information regarding—

“(i) the progress in implementing the outcome-based and other appropriate performance metrics established pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iii);

“(ii) the staffing plan developed for each Joint Task Force pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv); and

“(iii) any modification to the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of each Joint Task Force, and a description of, and rationale for, any such modifications.”; and

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

(b) ANNUAL BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall brief—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(2) TOPICS.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall cover the latest staffing and resource assessment at Joint Task Force-East, including—

(A)(i) a determination of whether the current staffing levels of Joint Task Force-East are sufficient to successfully advance the mission, strategic goals, and objectives of such Joint Task Force; and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient staffing levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for increasing such staffing levels; and

(B)(i) a determination of whether sufficient resources are being provided for Joint Task Force-East in accordance with section 708(b)(7)(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(7)(a)); and

(ii) if such determination reveals insufficient resource levels, the cost, timeline, and strategy for providing any remaining resource requirements.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following law clerks and fellows to the Senate Judiciary Committee be granted floor privileges until September 28, 2024: Simone Montgomery, Isha Sharma, Kenneth Mok, and Charles Alldredge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 838, S. Res. 839, S. Res. 840, S. Res. 841, S. Res. 842, S. Res. 843, S. Res. 844.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Sfraga nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the Sfraga nomination ripen at 12 noon; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture has been invoked on the Sfraga nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 457, H.R. 1555, ripen upon the disposition of the Sfraga nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 23, 2024:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

ROSE E. JENKINS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.