

SENATE RESOLUTION 847—HONORING WADEE ALFAYOUMI, A 6-YEAR-OLD PALESTINIAN-AMERICAN BOY, MURDERED AS A VICTIM OF A HATE CRIME FOR HIS PALESTINIAN-MUSLIM IDENTITY, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 847

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-Muslim-American boy, was loved by his family and friends as an energetic, loving, and joyous light who brought sunshine to his loved ones and classmates;

Whereas, on October 14, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., Wadee Alfayoumi was brutally stabbed 26 times by a hate-driven perpetrator and tragically succumbed to his injuries;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi's perpetrator has been indicted for a hate crime by the Will County, Illinois, grand jury, and the Department of Justice has opened a hate crimes investigation into the events leading to Wadee Alfayoumi's death, as there is evidence the perpetrator yelled during the brutal killing, "All Muslims must die and your people must die" and has been observed to be a consumer of media containing dehumanizing and hateful rhetoric that is anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi was born and raised in the United States, and his family wanted the United States to provide them a life of safety away from dehumanizing and hateful rhetoric toward Palestinian people;

Whereas no one should be a target of hate because of their ethnicity or religion, whether such ethnicity or religion is expressed verbally or through how one dresses, such as through the wearing of a hijab, keffiyeh, turban, mitpahat, tichel, shpitzel, sheitel, kippah, or yarmulke;

Whereas dehumanizing rhetoric can fuel sentiments of hate that result in violence against those who belong or who are perceived to belong to a certain ethnic or religious group;

Whereas the Palestinian community's migration to the United States dates back to the late 19th century;

Whereas the United States is home to one of the largest Palestinian diasporas in the world that is made up of lawyers, doctors, teachers, business owners, law enforcement, and others, all who contribute to the history, arts, commerce, promise, and character of the United States;

Whereas Wadee Alfayoumi shared a heritage, history, love, culture, tradition, and brilliance belonging to the Palestinian people and was a symbol of another great Palestinian life full of promise;

Whereas Palestinian children, Israeli children, children in the United States, and those all across the globe deserve to live in peace and be free from discrimination, hate crimes, and violence; and

Whereas the recent Israel-Gaza conflict has had a particularly devastating impact on children in the region, including at one point resulting in a Palestinian child dying every 10 minutes, according to the World Health Organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that—

- (1) the United States lost the beautiful light of Wadee Alfayoumi because of hate;

- (2) it is the duty of elected officials and media to tell the truth without dehumanizing rhetoric when informing the public of factual information;

- (3) freedom of speech and peaceful protest are constitutionally protected and a fundamental cornerstone of democracy; and

- (4) the United States has zero tolerance for hate crimes, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab discrimination.

SENATE RESOLUTION 848—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, AS "NATIONAL HAZING AWARENESS WEEK"

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 848

Whereas hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against a student regardless of the willingness of that student to participate, in connection with membership in an organization, and causes or is likely to contribute to a substantial risk above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical training necessary for participation on an athletic team), of physical injury, mental harm, or personal degradation;

Whereas 55 percent of college students involved in extracurricular clubs, athletic teams, and organizations reported experiencing hazing;

Whereas a hazing prevention policy is vital to help shape expectations for safe campus communities where healthy group behaviors, ethical leadership, and feelings of positive well-being and belonging are fostered;

Whereas it is recommended that hazing prevention education is broad and includes students, campus staff, administrators, faculty, alumni, and beyond;

Whereas hundreds of students have died as a result of collegiate hazing, including Kristin High on September 9, 2002, Kenitha Saafir on September 9, 2002, Clay Warren on September 21, in 2002, Lynn Gordon "Gordie" Bailey, Jr., on September 17, 2004, Matthew Carrington on February 2, 2005, Gary Louis DeVerelly, Jr. on March 30, 2007, Brett Griffin on November 8, 2008, Harrison Kowiak on November 18, 2008, Michael Anthony Smallwood Starks on November 21, 2008, Carson Leonard Starkey on December 2, 2008, George Desdunes on February 25, 2011, Robert Darnell Champion on November 19, 2011, Robert Eugene Timpton, Jr., on March 26, 2012, David R. Bogenberger on November 2, 2012, Marvell Edmonson on April 20, 2013, Jauwan Holmes on April 20, 2013, Marquise Braham on March 14, 2014, Dalton Debrick on August 24, 2014, Tucker W. Hipps on September 22, 2014, Nolan M. Burch on November 14, 2014, Timothy J. Piazza on February 4, 2017, Max Gruver on September 14, 2017, Andrew Coffey on November 3, 2017, Alexander Levi Rainey Beletsis on June 20, 2018, Nicky Cumberland on October 30, 2018, Collin Wiant on November 12, 2018, Noah Domingo on January 12, 2019, Bea Castro on March 17, 2019, Justin King on September 14, 2019, Antonio Tsialas on October 24, 2019, Samuel Martinez on November 12, 2019, Adam Jeffrey Oakes on February 27, 2021, Stone Justin Foltz on March 7, 2021, Lofton Hazelwood on October 18, 2021, and Luke Tyler on January 22, 2023;

Whereas students have suffered severe, life-altering injuries as a result of collegiate

hazing, including Danny Santulli on October 19, 2021; and

Whereas hazing has a lasting, harmful, and deadly impact, and preventing hazing must be prioritized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates September 23 through September 27, 2024, as "National Hazing Awareness Week";

- (2) acknowledges hazing prevention is not limited to a single week of awareness but is an ongoing commitment; and

- (3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hazing Awareness Week through promoting hazing awareness and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 849—CALLING ON CONGRESS, SCHOOLS, AND STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DYSLEXIA THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED, AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS "NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 849

Whereas dyslexia is—

- (1) defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; and

- (2) most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, spell, and, often, the ability to learn a second language;

Whereas the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391; 132 Stat. 5194 et seq.) included a definition of dyslexia as part of the requirement of the Act to screen inmates for dyslexia upon intake in Federal prisons;

Whereas the definition of dyslexia in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of the First Step Act of 2018, is the first and only definition of dyslexia in a Federal statute;

Whereas dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects 80 to 90 percent of all individuals with a learning disability;

Whereas dyslexia is persistent and highly prevalent, affecting as many as 1 out of every 5 individuals;

Whereas dyslexia is a paradox, in that an individual with dyslexia may have both—

- (1) weaknesses in decoding that result in difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition; and

- (2) strengths in higher-level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, and problem solving;

Whereas great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia on a scientific level, including the epidemiological, cognitive, and neurobiological bases of dyslexia;

Whereas the achievement gap between typical readers and dyslexic readers occurs as early as first grade; and

Whereas early screening for, and early diagnosis of, dyslexia are critical for ensuring that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidence-based intervention that leads to fluent reading, the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment, and the provision of necessary accommodations that ensure success in school and in life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; and

(2) designates October 2024 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 850—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH”

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 850

Whereas country music, a uniquely American sound, echoes from the backroads of the United States to the streets of Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas Bristol, straddling the Tennessee and Virginia state line, is recognized as the “birthplace of country music”;

Whereas the Grand Ole Opry, the most famous stage in country music, has been called the “home of American music”;

Whereas the Ryman Auditorium, the original home of the Grand Ole Opry, has been described as “the Mother Church of country music”;

Whereas country music reminds every American of the importance of faith, family, freedom, hope, opportunity, and patriotism;

Whereas country music has influenced numerous other genres of music;

Whereas country music is an incredibly diverse genre, appealing to Americans from all walks of life;

Whereas country music has millions of fans all across the United States;

Whereas the country music industry contributes billions of dollars in revenue each year to the economy of the United States;

Whereas the Country Music Association first celebrated “National Country Music Month” in 1964; and

Whereas President Nixon issued a presidential proclamation in 1970 to acknowledge October as “National Country Music Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as “National Country Music Month”;

(2) honors the contributions of country music to the story and history of the United States; and

(3) encourages the American people to observe “National Country Music Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 851—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2, 2024, AS “NATIONAL BISON DAY”

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 851

Whereas, on May 9, 2016, the North American bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States;

Whereas bison are considered a historical and cultural symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison are integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian Tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are approximately 82 Indian Tribes participating in the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which is a Tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (48 Stat. 988, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5124);

Whereas numerous members of Indian Tribes are involved in bison restoration on Tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian Tribes have a combined herd of almost 25,000 bison on more than 1,000,000 acres of Tribal land in 22 States;

Whereas bison play an important role in the health of the wildlife, landscapes, and grasslands of the United States;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and Tribal and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2022, the Department of Agriculture estimates that 192,477 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas the Department of the Interior has launched the Bison Conservation Initiative, a 10-year cooperative initiative to coordinate the conservation and restoration of wild American bison;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams and businesses have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic and cultural significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas Indigenous communities and a group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remaining bison of the diminished herds;

Whereas, on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas, on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society sent 15 captive-bred bison from the New York Zoological Park, now known as the “Bronx Zoo”, to the first big game refuge in the United States, now known as the “Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge”;

Whereas, in 2005, the American Bison Society was reestablished, bringing together bison ranchers, Native American leaders and bison herd managers, Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, artists and writers, young people, and natural and social scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico to create a vision for the North American bison in the 21st century;

Whereas there are bison herds in national wildlife refuges, national parks, and national forests, and on other Federal land;

Whereas there are bison in State-managed herds across 11 States;

Whereas private, public, and Tribal bison leaders are working together to continue bison restoration throughout North America;

Whereas there is a growing effort to celebrate and officially recognize the historical, cultural, and economic significance of the

North American bison to the heritage of the United States; and

Whereas members of Indian Tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners have celebrated the annual National Bison Day since 2012 and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2, 2024, the first Saturday of November, as “National Bison Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 852—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 20, 2024, AS “NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 852

Whereas many children from families with low incomes begin school already far behind children from families with higher incomes;

Whereas research shows that children from families with low incomes are less likely to have interactions that are critical for language development, including—

(1) being read to or spoken to regularly;

(2) having access to books;

(3) having a literacy-rich environment; and

(4) accessing high-quality early childhood education programs;

Whereas language development is an important precursor to literacy;

Whereas access to high-quality early childhood education programs can support early childhood language development and literacy;

Whereas, as early as 3 years of age, the vocabulary of a child can predict the future third-grade reading proficiency of the child;

Whereas, during the first 3 years of life, children from families with low-incomes can hear as many as 30,000,000 fewer words than children from more affluent families;

Whereas, in 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as “NAEP”) reported that—

(1) 66 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP proficient level in reading; and

(2) 37 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP basic level in reading; and

Whereas awareness of early childhood literacy issues must be heightened to encourage greater support to help children achieve reading proficiency: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 20, 2024, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages States, localities, schools, early childhood education programs, and nonprofit organizations to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing public awareness about early childhood literacy issues;

(3) recognizes the need to make early childhood literacy a public priority;

(4) supports the efforts of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers dedicated to increasing childhood literacy rates;

(5) applauds the initiatives of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers that—