

S. 5275

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate patient access to certain pediatric technologies.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the article of amendment commonly known as the "Equal Rights Amendment" has been validly ratified and is enforceable as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and the Archivist of the United States must certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment without delay.

S. CON. RES. 42

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 42, a concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to Latina women in comparison to White, non-Hispanic men.

S. RES. 669

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 669, a resolution designating October 10, 2024, as "American Girls in Sports Day".

S. RES. 684

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 684, a resolution supporting the role of the United States in helping save the lives of children and protecting the health of people in low-income countries with vaccines and immunization through Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance ("Gavi").

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 891—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ELECTION WORKERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR WORK TO THE DEMOCRACY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 891

Whereas the right to vote is foundational to our democracy;

Whereas there are over 200,000,000 citizens in the United States registered to vote;

Whereas November 5, 2024, is Election Day;

Whereas, on Election Day, voters across the country will cast their votes for the presidency, their representatives in Congress, State and local representatives, ballot measures, and other matters;

Whereas, in our electoral system, the counties of the United States are traditionally responsible for administering elections on the ground, managing polling locations, and hiring and training election workers;

Whereas, across the United States, there are approximately 10,000 local election jurisdictions;

Whereas counties manage over 100,000 voting locations throughout the United States, with more than 630,000 workers at these locations tasked with administering the election each cycle;

Whereas a majority of election workers are over the age of 60;

Whereas many jurisdictions are facing challenges with recruiting election workers to administer elections; and

Whereas election workers are on the frontlines of protecting our democracy, including ensuring the security of the voting systems of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contribution of election workers across the United States; and

(2) recognizes that the work of election workers is critical to the democracy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 892—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 13, 2024, AS "NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK"

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 892

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service administers the National Wildlife Refuge System to conserve, manage, and, where appropriate, restore fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of current and future generations;

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System is administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and has grown to include 572 national wildlife refuges, 38 wetland management districts, and 5 marine national monuments with units located in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses more than 850,000,000 acres of unique habitats and ecosystems, including tropical and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, remote islands, and marine areas, and spans 12 time zones from the United States Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges support approximately 800 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 1,100 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide protection to more than 380 threatened species and endangered species;

Whereas more than 65 national wildlife refuges were established to conserve species considered to be threatened or endangered under Federal standards, including the American crocodile, California condor, Devil's Hole pupfish, and Antioch Dunes evening primrose;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that support waterfowl habitat;

Whereas, since 1934, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund has generated more than \$2,000,000,000 and enabled the conservation of more than 6,300,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas national wildlife refuges protect and conserve climate-resilient habitats that support biodiversity and provide nature-based solutions;

Whereas more than 180 national wildlife refuges conserve marine, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats, helping to protect communities by reducing the risk of storm-surge flooding, especially in low-lying floodplain and coastal areas;

Whereas many national wildlife refuges are managed to reduce wildfire risk by thinning overgrown forests and removing invasive species;

Whereas meaningful engagement and proactive collaboration with Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native organizations, and the Native Hawaiian community is an integral aspect of the co-stewardship of our shared natural resources, including National Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters;

Whereas important cultural and historic resources are protected on national wildlife refuges, including—

(1) archaeological sites detailing the lives of Native Americans and early colonists at Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia;

(2) World War II sites in the Pacific, from Attu in Alaska to Midway Atoll in the Hawaiian Islands; and

(3) the remains of the home of the father of Harriet Tubman at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Maryland;

Whereas Tribal consultation is a cornerstone of historic preservation on national wildlife refuges where cultural resources and traditional sacred spaces are important to Native American Tribes, including Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada, where the Nuwvi people finalized a plan with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to respect and showcase ancient petroglyphs;

Whereas national wildlife refuges use a range of management tools, including fire management, invasive species control, water management, wildlife health assessments, inventory and monitoring species, facility condition assessments, 5-year infrastructure project plans, and other tools to conserve habitat and ensure opportunities for public access and recreation;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including sustainable hunting and fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System receives more than 68,000,000 annual visits which—

(1) generate more than \$3,200,000,000 for local economies; and

(2) support 41,000 jobs;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System hosts nearly 42,000,000 annual birding and wildlife observation visits;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every dollar appropriated to the National Wildlife Refuge System, an average of approximately 5 dollars is returned to local economies;

Whereas 436 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 378 units have fishing programs which support, respectively, more than 2,600,000 hunting visits and more than 8,600,000 fishing visits annually;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2023, more than 23,000 volunteers contributed approximately 900,000 volunteer hours in national wildlife refuges, which is equal to the number of hours worked by 550 full-time employees;

Whereas approximately 180 national wildlife refuge "Friends" organizations provide additional volunteer labor and serve as an important link between national wildlife refuges and local communities;

Whereas 101 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System are within 25 miles of population centers of 250,000 people or more;

Whereas, through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service works to dismantle barriers that have blocked underserved communities from full and equal participation in outdoor recreation and wildlife conservation;

Whereas the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program fosters strong new conservation coalitions, educates and employs youth, engages communities, builds trust in government, and connects individuals with nature;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds to explore, connect with, and preserve the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, national wildlife refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the week beginning on October 13, 2024, as National Wildlife Refuge Week; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 13, 2024, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week";

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation, the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, and wildlife-dependent recreational uses;

(4) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, and interpretation, as well as environmental education;

(6) finds that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(7) recognizes the important work of urban national wildlife refuges in welcoming racially and ethnically diverse urban communities that were long excluded, including work—

(A) to foster strong new conservation coalitions;

(B) to provide education and employment opportunities to youth;

(C) to improve communities;

(D) to build trust in government; and

(E) to connect individuals with nature;

(8) recognizes the commitment of the National Wildlife Refuge System to engagement, relationships, knowledge-sharing, and co-stewardship of National Wildlife Refuge System lands and waters with Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, Alaska Native organizations, and the Native Hawaiian community;

(9) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(10) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(11) expresses the intent of the Senate—

(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to support the management by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my interns for their shadow days on the following dates: Amelia Nason for November 13, 2024, and Rufaro Muchaka for December 3, 2024.

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

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 354, S. 2581.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2581) to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUNTIES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) SECURE PAYMENTS.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended, in subsections (a) and (b), by striking "2023" each place it appears and inserting "2026".

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE COUNTIES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2026".

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—

(1) COMMITTEE COMPOSITION WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Section 205(d)(6)(C) of the Secure Rural

Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(d)(6)(C)) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "2026".

(2) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 208 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7128) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "2025" and inserting "2028"; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking "2026" and inserting "2029".

(c) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO EXPEND COUNTY FUNDS.—Section 305 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "2025" and inserting "2028"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "2026" and inserting "2029".

SEC. 3. RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION.

Section 205(g) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "2023" and inserting "2026"; and

(2) in paragraph (6), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "the date described in paragraph (5)" and inserting "October 1, 2023".

SEC. 4. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7125) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "concerned," and inserting "concerned"; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking "the date of the enactment of this Act" and inserting "October 3, 2008"; and

(2) in subsection (d)(4), by striking "to extent" and inserting "to the extent".

(b) USE OF PROJECT FUNDS.—Section 206(b)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7126(b)(2)) is amended by striking "concerned," and inserting "concerned".

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2581), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 892, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 892) designating the week beginning on October 13, 2024, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to,