

Whereas reading and math scores and college degree attainment have substantially increased since the Department of Education was established;

Whereas the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights enforces Federal laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment, and has investigated record numbers of incidents of discrimination and hate in recent years despite employing only about half of the staff the Office had when it was originally established;

Whereas the Department of Education administers grants under the IDEA to help public schools serve more than 7,500,000 students with disabilities, a substantial financial commitment that cannot reasonably be assumed by State or local governments, and provides monitoring and oversight to hold States accountable for providing a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities;

Whereas the Department of Education provides equitable supplementary funding through grants under part A of title I of the ESEA to more than 51,000 public schools serving concentrated populations of students from low-income families in rural, suburban, and urban communities;

Whereas the Department of Education provides funding through subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.) to support the identification, enrollment, attendance, and success of nearly 1,400,000 students experiencing homelessness;

Whereas the Department of Education administers grants under part C of the IDEA to support the delivery of early intervention services to over 900,000 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities;

Whereas the Department of Education directly invests in the special education teachers of the United States through grants under part D of the IDEA to support personnel development to improve services and results for children with disabilities;

Whereas the Department of Education supports parent training and information centers under part D of the IDEA to help students with disabilities and their families understand their rights and navigate the special education process;

Whereas the Department of Education directly invests in people with disabilities to pursue post-secondary education, competitive, integrated employment, and independent living by providing vocational rehabilitation services through Title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 720 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of Education provides protections from disability-based discrimination for students and staff in any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, so all individuals with disabilities can access equal education and employment opportunities.

Whereas the Department of Education provides funding under part F of title IV of the ESEA to support full-service community schools, which partner with local stakeholders, parents, and families to provide commonsense, locally-driven solutions to the challenges students and families face, and are another major step forward in reclaiming the promise of public education;

Whereas the Department of Education provides vital support to thousands of rural school districts through the Rural Education Achievement program under part B of title V of the ESEA, which funds both the Small, Rural School Achievement grant program and the Rural and Low-Income School grant program;

Whereas the Department of Education directly invests in the quality and effectiveness of nearly 90 percent of teachers and approximately 20 percent of school leaders na-

tionwide through grants under part A of title II of the ESEA, ultimately improving retention rates, addressing the nationwide educator shortage, and improving student achievement;

Whereas the Department of Education provides supplementary funding to help more than 5,000,000 English language learners achieve language proficiency and meet State academic standards through grants under part A of title III of the ESEA;

Whereas the Department of Education provides supplementary funding to help tens of thousands of public schools provide well-rounded education, technology support, and school safety measures through grants under parts A, B, and F of title IV of the ESEA;

Whereas the Department of Education provides funds to strengthen and support career and technical education programs for more than 8,200,000 secondary students across the country through title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2321 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of Education provides grants under part E of title IV of the ESEA to support the work of Statewide Family Engagement Centers, which carry out parent education initiatives, family engagement programs, and family-school partnerships;

Whereas the Department of Education provides necessary oversight so that students have access to targeted interventions and services;

Whereas the Department of Education provides protections from sex-based discrimination for students and staff in any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance, so all individuals can access equal educational and employment opportunities;

Whereas the Department of Education invests in research to understand and disseminate information about the interventions and practices that are most effective at providing excellent educational opportunities for all students;

Whereas the Department of Education employs the smallest staff of any Cabinet agency, with the lowest overall staff-to-budget ratio of all 15 Departments;

Whereas dismantling or relocating any major offices within the Department of Education may substantially disrupt program administration and create a delay or loss of vitally important funding for public schools across the United States; and

Whereas, without Federal investment, State and local educational agencies would be forced to enact drastic funding cuts that will disproportionately affect students from rural areas, low-income families, students of color, and students with disabilities, as well as harm United States competition in the global economy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly supports Federal investment in public K-12 schools and the students and families served by such schools;

(2) affirms that the Department of Education plays a vital role in the public education system of the United States;

(3) affirms that the Federal Government's investment is important to the success of public schools, and investment in public education should not be diverted, including through the use of vouchers, to privately-run K-12 schools; and

(4) condemns any executive or legislative action that would—

(A) dismantle or relocate major offices within the Department of Education;

(B) dismantle or relocate the Department of Education; or

(C) reduce Federal funding for public education, block major Federal grant programs for education, or transfer funding burdens

for education to State and local governments.

SENATE RESOLUTION 134—DESIGNATING MARCH 15, 2025, AS “NATIONAL OSCEOLA TURKEY DAY”

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mrs. MOODY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 134

Whereas wild turkey has been an important part of the history and family traditions of the United States;

Whereas wild turkey was on the table at the very first Thanksgiving, and turkey continues to be a mainstay during many holiday traditions;

Whereas wild turkey is a healthy, organic, and delicious source of lean protein;

Whereas, in the United States, turkey hunters have spent approximately \$76,900,000 per year since 1985 with an economic impact of \$128,700,000 annually;

Whereas Florida has a rich history of wild turkey hunting, management, and research;

Whereas Florida is home to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, which is the largest public-private partnership program in the United States for the maintenance of wild turkey habitat on wildlife management areas and other public lands open to hunting;

Whereas, since the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program began in 1994, upwards of 1,000,000 acres of upland habitat have received funding for turkey habitat management efforts;

Whereas, in the 2024 Florida spring wild turkey season, an estimated 31,085 hunters participated in turkey hunting, including an estimated 5,453 non residents of the Sunshine State;

Whereas, in Florida, revenue generated from the sale of wild turkey permits is used for conservation, research, and management of wild turkeys or promoting the cultural heritage of hunting;

Whereas turkey hunters are an important part of the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, and the money generated from the sale of turkey permits, which are a requirement for hunting wild turkeys in Florida unless exempt, allows the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to make significant contributions to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program each year;

Whereas Florida is home to 2 subspecies of wild turkey, the eastern wild turkey and the Osceola or Florida wild turkey;

Whereas the Osceola is 1 of 5 subspecies of wild turkey in North America;

Whereas the Osceola turkey exists only in peninsular Florida;

Whereas the Osceola subspecies of wild turkey is often perceived as mysterious and the most difficult to harvest because of its small geographic range and the often swampy habitat where it is found;

Whereas hunters in pursuit of the 4 subspecies of turkey in the United States, known as a “Grand Slam”, are required to hunt in Florida; and

Whereas March 1, 2025, is the opening day of turkey harvesting season in part of Florida, and March 15, 2025, is the opening day for the entire State of Florida: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 15, 2025, as “National Osceola Turkey Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Osceola Turkey Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

APPOINTMENT

The presiding officer. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-114, as amended, appoints the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico vice the Honorable JOE MANCHIN of West Virginia.

NATIONAL OSCEOLA TURKEY DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 134, 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. 134) designating March 15, 2025, as "National Osceola Turkey Day".

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 134) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Friday, March 14, ripen at 12 noon; further, that at 12 noon, the Senate vote on cloture on the Kratsios nomination, and following the cloture vote, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; and that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the Kratsios nomination; finally, 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. THUNE. 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 7:14 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HERSCHEL WALKER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

STACEY FEINBERG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG.

KENNETH HOWERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK.

RICHARD BUCHAN III, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO.

DAVID PERDUE, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

CALLISTA GINGRICH, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN.

KIMBERLY GUILFOYLE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREECE.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ALEX ADAMS, OF IDAHO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE JANUARY CONTRERAS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MELISSA ARGYROS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION

GREGORY AUTREY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARGARET VO SCHAUS, RESIGNED.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY
ADMINISTRATION

DEREK BARRS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE ROBIN MEREDITH COHN HUTCHESON.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BILL BAZZI, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BRYAN BEDFORD, OF INDIANA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MICHAEL G. WHITTAKER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THOMAS BELL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE CHRISTI A. GRIMM.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LYNDA BLANCHARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

MICHELLE BOWMAN, OF KANSAS, TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN FOR SUPERVISION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL S. BARR, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEO BRENT BOZELL III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

HOWARD BRODIE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

JOHN BUSTERUD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER C. WRIGHT.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

CRYSTAL CAREY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JENNIFER ANN ABRUZZO.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BRIAN CHRISTINE, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE RACHEL LELAND LEVINE, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL DESOMBRE, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS), VICE DANIEL J. KRITENBRINK.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL DODD, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. (NEW POSITION)

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND
ENFORCEMENT

LANNY ERDOS, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT, VICE LANNY ERDOS.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

KAREN EVANS, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE CLAIRE M. GRADY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ARTHUR FISHER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA.

AMER GHALIB, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT.

MELINDA HILDEBRAND, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JULIE HOCKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE TARYN MACKENZIE WILLIAMS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHEL ISSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE LEBANESE REPUBLIC.

MICHAEL KAVOUKJIAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY.

PETER LAMELAS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

BENJAMIN LEON, JR., OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA.

JENNIFER LOCETTA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

ANDREA LUCAS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2030. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NICHOLAS MERRICK, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC.

DANIEL NEWLIN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.

JARED NOVELLY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO NEW ZEALAND, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA.

ROMAN PIPKO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA.

JOSEPH POPOLO, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL POWERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE KATHLEEN S. MILLER, RESIGNED.