

and transfer of the Panama Canal, ensuring it remains a critical asset for global commerce;

Whereas the construction of the Panama Canal by the United States required more than a decade of work (1904-1914), involved tens of thousands of workers, and cost approximately \$375,000,000, equivalent to more than \$10,000,000,000 in 2025, with thousands of workers losing their lives due to disease and hazardous conditions;

Whereas the defense and operation of the Panama Canal during the 20th century further demonstrated the United States' commitment, at significant financial and human cost, to maintaining the vital global trade route;

Whereas the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, signed at Washington September 7, 1977 (commonly referred to as the "Neutrality Treaty"), prohibits actions that undermine the canal's neutrality or threaten United States security interests and grants the United States the right to act, unilaterally if necessary, to defend the canal's neutrality and ensure its operational security;

Whereas the Neutrality Treaty obligates Panama and the United States to act against any threat to the neutrality or peaceful operation of the Panama Canal, including undue foreign control over its infrastructure or management;

Whereas when President Carter ratified the Neutrality Treaty, President Carter accepted a legally binding condition to the Treaty, adopted by the United States Senate, establishing an independent right of the United States to intervene militarily, consistent with United States constitutional processes, to reopen or restore the operations of the Panama Canal, as the United States deems necessary, to ensure the canal remains open, neutral, secure, and accessible;

Whereas the People's Republic of China, through state-owned enterprises and Chinese government-affiliated private entities, has expanded its influence with key infrastructure projects and ports around the world, including in Panama, raising concerns about undue leverage and potential threats to free and fair navigation and trade;

Whereas the People's Republic of China Belt and Road Initiative fosters economic dependence and exerts outsized geopolitical influence through its investments;

Whereas Panama joined the Belt and Road Initiative in December 2018;

Whereas the involvement of Chinese government-affiliated enterprises in the construction, management, and maintenance of other critical infrastructure, such as a proposed fourth bridge spanning the Panama Canal, calls into question the ability of Panama and the United States to defend the canal's neutrality and ensure its operational security;

Whereas two major ports in Panama, the ports of Balboa and Cristobal, are currently managed by Chinese-affiliated entities, such as Hutchison Ports, a Hong Kong-based operator with significant ties to China's economic and political ecosystem, threatening the sovereignty of Panama and the security of the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the involvement of officials from the People's Republic of China and entities that are subject to the National Security Law of the People's Republic of China and similar laws in Panamanian ports and infrastructure compromises international security and disrupts critical trade routes;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's control over portions of the infrastructure of the Panama Canal poses a direct threat to the national security and strategic interests of the United States;

Whereas allowing foreign exploitation of Panama's ports and infrastructure undermines the sacrifices made to secure Panama's independence and the shared values between Panama and the United States; and

Whereas the United States and Panama have a long history of partnership and shared commitment to democratic governance, sovereignty, and the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound concern about the presence and influence of the People's Republic of China in Panamanian ports and infrastructure, particularly in facilities of strategic significance such as the ports of Balboa and Cristobal;

(2) calls upon the Government of Panama to—

(A) reaffirm its commitment to the "permanent neutrality" of the Panama Canal as defined by the Neutrality Treaty by seeking management structures that ensure unbiased, equitable access for vessels of all nations;

(B) review and terminate agreements allowing Chinese state-owned enterprises or China-based so-called private entities to manage strategic infrastructure, including the ports of Balboa and Cristobal;

(C) expel all officials from the People's Republic of China operating within Panamanian ports and other critical infrastructure projects; and

(D) reaffirm its commitment to maintaining the sovereignty of Panama and protecting the security of the Western Hemisphere by seeking partnerships that align with democratic values and mutual respect;

(3) urges the Government of the United States to—

(A) leverage provisions in the Neutrality Treaty, including Condition (1), to monitor and address threats to the neutrality of the Panama Canal, acting decisively to counter undue foreign influence;

(B) provide technical, financial, and strategic support to Panama as it seeks to assert sovereignty over its critical infrastructure and reduce its dependence on entities affiliated with the People's Republic of China;

(C) strengthen collaboration with Panama and other allies in the region to promote transparent and sustainable investments in infrastructure projects;

(D) establish a framework to restore operational control of the Panama Canal to a collaborative partnership between the United States and Panama, which should honor the spirit of the Neutrality Treaty, respect Panama's sovereignty, and incorporate United States expertise and resources to benefit both nations;

(E) offer significant United States investments to modernize Panama's canal infrastructure and provide alternatives to Chinese-funded projects; and

(F) develop a joint United States-Panama task force to oversee canal security and operations, enhancing regional security and ensuring freedom of navigation;

(4) encourages Panama and other regional and global allies to monitor and counter efforts by authoritarian regimes to exploit economic vulnerabilities to gain strategic leverage in the Western Hemisphere; and

(5) directs that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the President of Panama, and the National Assembly of Panama.

SENATE RESOLUTION 32—DESIGNATING JANUARY 23, 2025, AS "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 32

Whereas each year in the United States, approximately 800 women die as a result of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas the pregnancy-related mortality ratio, defined as the number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, more than quadrupled in the United States between 1987 and 2021;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group, the United States is one of the only countries in the world with a significant percentage increase in the maternal mortality in 2020;

Whereas, of all pregnancy-related deaths that occurred in the United States in 2020—

(1) approximately 25.7 percent occurred during pregnancy;

(2) approximately 11.1 percent occurred during childbirth;

(3) approximately 16.2 percent occurred 1 to 6 days postpartum;

(4) approximately 20.2 percent occurred 7 to 42 days postpartum; and

(5) approximately 26.9 percent occurred between 43 days and 1 year postpartum.

Whereas 83.5 percent of pregnancy-related deaths in the United States are considered preventable;

Whereas, each year, as many as 60,000 women in the United States suffer from a severe maternal morbidity, which includes unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that can result in significant short- and long-term health consequences;

Whereas approximately 20 percent of mothers who give birth in the United States report experiencing mistreatment;

Whereas postpartum depression affects a significant percentage of new mothers who give birth, with estimates ranging from 10 to 20 percent of mothers who give birth experiencing depressive symptoms during the first year after childbirth, but many postpartum depression cases go undiagnosed and untreated, often due to a lack of screening;

Whereas various social and systemic factors can influence maternal health outcomes and contribute to disparities in care;

Whereas significant disparities in maternal health outcomes exist in the United States, including that—

(1) the pregnancy-related mortality ratio for Black women is nearly 3 times higher than that of White women;

(2) the pregnancy-related mortality ratio for American Indian and Alaska Native women is more than twice as high as White women;

(3) the pregnancy-related mortality ratio for Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native women with at least some college education is higher compared to women of all other racial and ethnic backgrounds with less than a high school diploma;

(4) the rate of severe maternal morbidity for Black and Asian-Pacific Islander women is approximately twice as high as the rate for White women;

(5) women who live in rural areas have a greater rate of severe maternal morbidity and mortality compared to women who live in urban areas;

(6) 59 percent of rural counties are considered a maternity care desert;

(7) rural counties with more Black and Hispanic residents and lower median incomes are less likely to have access to hospital obstetric services;

(8) the average travel distance for maternity care deserts and rural counties is 28.1 and 17.3 miles, respectively; and

(9) American Indian and Alaska Native women living in rural communities are more than twice as likely as their White counterparts to report receiving late or no prenatal care;

Whereas 47 States and the District of Columbia have adopted the option to extend coverage for postpartum care under Medicaid to 12 months;

Whereas 49 States, the District of Columbia, New York City, Philadelphia, and Puerto Rico each have a formal maternal mortality review committee or legal requirement to review pregnancy-related deaths;

Whereas State and local maternal mortality review committees are positioned to comprehensively assess maternal deaths and identify opportunities for prevention;

Whereas 49 States and the District of Columbia are participating in the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, which promotes consistent and safe maternity care to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality;

Whereas community-based maternal health care models, including midwifery childbirth services, doula support services, community and perinatal health worker services, and group prenatal care, in collaboration with culturally competent physician care, show great promise in improving maternal health outcomes and reducing disparities in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas increasing the maternal health care workforce and expanding telehealth services can help reduce the disparities in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas many organizations have implemented initiatives to educate patients and providers about—

(1) all causes of, contributing factors to, and disparities in maternal mortality;

(2) the prevention of pregnancy-related deaths; and

(3) the importance of listening to and empowering all people to report pregnancy-related medical issues; and

Whereas several States, communities, and organizations recognize January 23 as “Maternal Health Awareness Day” to raise awareness about maternal health and promote maternal safety; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 23, 2025, as “Maternal Health Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Maternal Health Awareness Day, including—

(A) raising public awareness about maternal mortality, maternal morbidity, and disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) encouraging the Federal Government, States, territories, Tribes, local communities, public health organizations, physicians, health care providers, and others to take action to reduce adverse maternal health outcomes and improve maternal safety;

(3) promotes initiatives—

(A) to address and eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) to ensure respectful and equitable maternity care practices;

(4) honors those who have passed away as a result of pregnancy-related causes; and

(5) supports and recognizes the need for meaningful investments in efforts to improve maternal health, eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes, and promote respectful and equitable maternity care practices.

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF JANUARY AS “MUSLIM-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH” AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF MUSLIM AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KIM, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 33

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize and commemorate “Muslim-American Heritage Month”, an observance that celebrates the contributions of Muslim Americans;

Whereas in keeping with the time-honored traditions of the Senate, the Senate recognizes and pays tribute to those who foster cultural pride and enhance the profile of diverse communities across the United States;

Whereas immigration of Muslims to the American colonies began with the arrival of indentured workers;

Whereas, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves of Muslim heritage were brought to the United States;

Whereas in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, successive waves of immigration brought additional Muslims to the United States, who sought to pursue economic and social opportunity, as well as freedom of religion, and enriched the fabric of the society of the United States as business owners, entrepreneurs, health care professionals, humanitarians, scientists, and students;

Whereas Muslim Americans contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faiths in the United States and around the world by providing medical assistance, family services, and scholastic supplies, running before- and after-school programs, feeding the hungry, and providing recuperation efforts following natural disasters;

Whereas Muslim Americans have contributed to every part of the society of the United States by making advancements in architecture, arts, business, culture, government, law, medicine, the military, religion, and sports;

Whereas Bangladeshi-American Fazlur Rahman Khan left his mark on the cityscapes of the United States by pioneering a new structural system of frame tubes used to construct iconic buildings like the World Trade Center in New York City, New York, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the Willis “Sears” Tower in Chicago, Illinois;

Whereas many Muslim Americans pursue the American dream and contribute to the economy of the United States as business owners and entrepreneurs, including Pakistani-born billionaire Shahid Khan, owner of the auto-parts company Flex-N-Gate and the National Football League’s Jacksonville Jaguars;

Whereas the invention of the ice cream cone by Syrian immigrant Ernest Hamwi is a practical confection with a near ubiquitous presence in the life of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2006, Keith Ellison of Minnesota was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim American to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2008, Ambassador Sada Cumber was appointed by President George W. Bush

to serve as the first Special Envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference from the United States, representing the United States to 57 Muslim-majority nations;

Whereas, in 2015, André Carson of Indiana, the second Muslim American elected to the House of Representatives, became the first Muslim American to serve on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

Whereas actor Mahershala Ali became the first Muslim American to win an Oscar for his supporting role in “Moonlight” in 2017;

Whereas, in 2018, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota were elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim-American women to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2021, Zahid Quraishi was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as an article III Federal judge as a district judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey;

Whereas, in 2021, Rashad Hussain was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom;

Whereas the invention of the intraventricular catheter system by Pakistani-American neurosurgeon Ayub Ommaya provides chemotherapy to treat brain tumors;

Whereas Muslim Americans have fought in support of the United States in every major war, from Bampett Muhamed and Yusuf Ben Ali under the command of General George Washington in the American Revolutionary War, to Captain Humayun Khan, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq in 2004;

Whereas Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, the first Muslim American to deliver the invocation for the Senate, and El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, the civil rights activist and reformer also known as Malcolm X, were prominent religious leaders and scholars;

Whereas Muslim-American professional athletes like Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame members Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon, and Shaquille O’Neal, and 2-time world heavyweight boxing champion Hasim Shariff Rahman, thrilled sports fans across the United States and around the world during their respective careers;

Whereas Muslim-American Olympians, such as boxer Muhammad Ali, track and field athlete Dalilah Muhammad, and fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad, won medals in international competitions;

Whereas, with roots in at least 77 different countries and identifying racially as White, Black, Arab, and Asian, Muslim Americans are an extremely diverse population;

Whereas the current population of Muslims living in the United States is estimated at over 3,450,000 individuals;

Whereas over 4,500 Muslims serve on active duty, and over 2,300 Muslims serve as selected reserve personnel in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Muslim population has been growing in the United States, and the present-day Muslim-American population is a tapestry of ethnic, racial, linguistic, social, and economic groups;

Whereas nearly 50 percent of Muslim Americans have reported experiencing religious discrimination, with that number rising to 64 percent for Muslim Americans whose appearance identifies them as Muslim, such as women who wear the hijab or headscarf;

Whereas there is a need for public education, awareness, and policies that help people be culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts that Muslim Americans have on all aspects of the society of the United States;