

and the United States. This resolution encourages the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day.

I call upon all of my colleagues to stand with me in support of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2012 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2012 AS “NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN IMPROVING HEALTH QUALITY

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 562

Whereas healthcare information technology and management systems have been recognized as essential tools for improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing healthcare costs;

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership has estimated that the implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information would save the United States approximately \$77,000,000,000 in expenses relating to healthcare each year;

Whereas Congress has made a commitment to leveraging the benefits of healthcare information technology and management systems, including supporting the adoption of electronic health records that will help to reduce costs and improve quality while ensuring the privacy of patients;

Whereas the ability to exchange health information confidently and securely between different providers, systems, and insurers is critical to transforming the healthcare delivery system of the United States to improve clinical outcomes for patients, control costs, and expand access to care through the use of technology;

Whereas Congress has made real-time health information exchange a priority and an essential component of the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Programs;

Whereas Congress has emphasized improving the quality and safety of delivery of healthcare in the United States; and

Whereas, since 2006, organizations across the United States have united to support National Health Information Technology Week to improve public awareness of the benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency of the healthcare system that the implementation of health information technology could achieve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on September 10, 2012 and ending on September 14, 2012 as “National Health Information Technology Week”;

(2) recognizes the value of information technology and management systems in transforming healthcare for the people of the United States; and

(3) calls on all interested parties to promote the use of information technology and management systems to transform the healthcare system of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 3, 2012, AS “NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY”

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

S. RES. 563

Whereas phenylketonuria is a rare, inherited metabolic disorder that is characterized by the inability of the body to process the essential amino acid phenylalanine, and which causes mental retardation and other neurological problems, such as memory loss and mood disorders, when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life;

Whereas newborn screening for phenylketonuria was initiated in the United States in 1963 and was mandated by the Newborn Screening Saves Life Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 201 note);

Whereas approximately 1 of every 15,000 infants in the United States is born with phenylketonuria;

Whereas the 2012 Phenylketonuria Scientific Review Conference affirmed the recommendation of lifelong dietary treatment for phenylketonuria made by the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement 2000;

Whereas adults with phenylketonuria who discontinue treatment are at risk for other serious medical issues such as depression, impulse control disorder, phobias, tremors, and pareses;

Whereas women with phenylketonuria must maintain strict metabolic control before and during pregnancy to prevent fetal damage;

Whereas children born from untreated mothers with phenylketonuria may have a condition known as maternal PKU syndrome, which can cause small brains, mental retardation, birth defects of the heart, and low birth weight;

Whereas phenylketonuria is treated with medical food;

Whereas, although there is no cure for phenylketonuria, a treatment involving medical food and restricting phenylalanine intake can prevent progressive, irreversible brain damage;

Whereas maintaining a strict medical diet for phenylketonuria can be difficult to achieve, and poor metabolic control can result in a significant decline in mental and behavioral performance;

Whereas access to health coverage for medical food varies across the United States, and the long-term costs associated with caring for untreated children and adults far exceed the cost of providing medical food treatment;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in phenylketonuria research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important research projects involving phenylketonuria; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of phenylketonuria among the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 3, 2012, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed about phenylketonuria; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the National PKU Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2012 AS “NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 564

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines approved by the Food and Drug Administration have been determined to be safe and effective when used properly;

Whereas the misuse or abuse of these medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas the Office of National Drug Control Policy reports that medicine abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified medicine abuse as an epidemic;

Whereas the 2011 Monitoring the Future survey, funded by the National Institutes of Health, and the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, both illustrate that, after marijuana, over-the-counter and prescription medicines account for the most frequently abused drugs among 12th graders;

Whereas the access teenagers often have to prescription medicines in home medicine cabinets and the lack of understanding by teenagers of the potential harms of these powerful medicines make it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of medicine abuse;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration and many State and local law enforcement agencies have established drug disposal programs (commonly referred to as “take-back programs”) to facilitate the collection and destruction of unused, unwanted, or expired medications, thereby helping to take outdated or unused medications off household shelves and out of the reach of children and teenagers;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines are to be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that using such medicines to get high or in large doses can cause serious or life-threatening consequences;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, state, and local levels to increase awareness of the abuse of medicines;

Whereas a nationwide prevention and education campaign has been launched by the national organization that represents 5,000 anti-drug coalitions nationwide, along with the association representing makers of over-the-counter medicines, to provide local coalitions with tools, training, and outreach strategies to engage and educate parents, grandparents, teachers, law enforcement officials, retailers, doctors, and other healthcare professionals about the potential harms of cough medicine abuse; and

Whereas educating the public about the dangers of medicine abuse, encouraging parents to talk about medicine abuse with their teenagers, mobilizing parents to safeguard their home medicine cabinets, and promoting abuse prevention are critical components of what must be a multi-pronged effort