

Whereas ORWH, along with NIH leadership, enhances awareness of the need to adhere to principles of rigor and transparency, including the need to publish sex-specific results to inform the treatment of women, men, boys, and girls;

Whereas, over the past 25 years, ORWH has helped expand research on women's health beyond its roots in reproductive health to include—

(1) the study of the health of women across the lifespans of women; and

(2) biomedical and behavioral research from cells to selves;

Whereas, by studying both sexes, ORWH is leading the scientific community to make discoveries headed toward treatments that are more personalized for both women and men;

Whereas, today, ORWH communicates through programs and policies that sex and gender affect health, wellness, and how diseases progress;

Whereas turning discovery into health for all, the NIH motto, means studying both females and males across the biomedical research continuum;

Whereas the ORWH Specialized Centers of Research on Sex Differences program supports established scientists who do basic, clinical, and translational research with a sex and gender focus;

Whereas all NIH Institutes and Centers fund and encourage scientists at universities across the nation to conduct research on the health of women and on sex and gender influences;

Whereas, over the past 25 years, ORWH has established several career-enhancement initiatives for women in biomedicine, including the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health program that connects junior faculty with mentors who share interests in women's health research;

Whereas ORWH co-directs the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers, which develops and evaluates policies to promote the recruitment, retention, and sustained advancement of women scientists;

Whereas the Women's Health Initiative (in this resolution referred to as "WHI") marked the first long term study of its kind and resulted in a wealth of information so that women and their physicians can make more informed decisions regarding postmenopausal hormone therapy;

Whereas WHI reduced the incidence of breast cancer by 10,000 to 15,000 cases per year, and the overall health care savings far exceeded the WHI investment;

Whereas ORWH supported the National Cancer Institute's development of a vaccine that prevents the transmission of Human Papilloma Virus, resulting in a decrease in the number of cases of cervical cancer;

Whereas, in 1994, ORWH co-sponsored with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases a landmark study, the results of which showed that giving the drug AZT to HIV-infected women with little or no prior antiretroviral therapy reduced the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2%;

Whereas, according to the CDC, perinatal HIV infections in the United States have dropped by more than 90 percent;

Whereas ORWH co-funded a large clinical study of the genetic and environmental risk factors for ischemic stroke, which identified a strong relationship between the number of cigarettes smoked per day and the probability of ischemic stroke in young women, prompting the targeting of smoking as a preventable and modifiable risk factor for cerebrovascular disease in young women; and

Whereas, over the past 25 years, ORWH has contributed support toward major advances in knowledge about the genetic risk for breast cancer, and discovery of the BRCA1

and BRCA2 genetic risk markers has enabled better-informed genetic counseling and treatment for members of families that carry mutant alleles: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) ORWH has improved and saved the lives of countless women worldwide and must remain intact for this and future generations;

(2) there remain striking sex and gender differences in many diseases and conditions, on which ORWH should continue to focus, including—

(A) autoimmune diseases;

(B) cancer;

(C) cardiovascular diseases;

(D) depression and brain disorders;

(E) Alzheimer's disease;

(F) diabetes;

(G) chronic diseases and disorders;

(H) infectious diseases;

(I) obesity; and

(J) addictive disorders;

(3) ORWH must continue to focus on ensuring that NIH funds biomedical research that considers sex as a basic biological variable, across the research spectrum from basic to clinical studies; and

(4) the Director of the NIH should continue to consult and involve ORWH on all matters related to the influence of sex and gender on health, especially those pertaining to the consideration of sex as a biological variable in research with vertebrate animals and humans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 243—CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PETERS, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

S. RES. 243

Whereas America's Small Business Development Center (referred to in this preamble as "SBDC") network will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the SBDC network at a conference to be held September 8 through 11, 2015, in San Francisco, California;

Whereas the conference will be held—

(1) to continue the professional development of employees of SBDCs; and

(2) to commemorate the educational and technical assistance offered by SBDCs to small businesses across the United States;

Whereas for 35 years, SBDCs have been among the preeminent organizations in the United States for providing business advice, 1-on-1 counseling, and in-depth training to small businesses;

Whereas, during the 35 years before the date of approval of this resolution, the SBDC network has grown from 9 fledgling centers to a nationwide network of 63 State and regional centers with more than 4,200 business advisors providing free counseling at nearly 1,000 individual locations;

Whereas the SBDC network has worked for 35 years with the Small Business Administration, institutions of higher education, State governments, Congress, and others, to significantly enhance the economic health and strength of small businesses in the United States;

Whereas SBDCs—

(1) have assisted more than 22,500,000 small businesses during the 35 years before the date of approval of this resolution; and

(2) continue to aid and support hundreds of thousands of small businesses annually;

Whereas 28 percent of all SBDC clients are minorities, 44 percent of SBDC clients are women, and 9 percent of all SBDC clients are veterans;

Whereas SBDCs provide over 1,250,000 hours of counseling to small businesses and invest over \$140,000,000 annually in supporting small business;

Whereas, since 2012, SBDCs have helped small businesses create over 750,000 jobs, add \$67,500,000,000 in sales and attract over \$38,000,000,000 in capital;

Whereas, since the inception of SBDCs, SBDCs have continued to redefine and transform the services offered by SBDCs, including training and advising, and have taken on new missions, in order to ensure that small businesses have relevant and significant assistance in all economic conditions; and

Whereas Congress continues to support SBDCs and the role of SBDCs in assisting small businesses and building the economic success of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 35th anniversary of America's Small Business Development Center network; and

(2) expresses appreciation for—

(A) the steadfast partnership between America's Small Business Development Center network and the Small Business Administration; and

(B) the work of America's Small Business Development Center network in ensuring quality assistance to small business and access for all to the American dream.

SENATE RESOLUTION 244—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE "LAUDATO SI" ENCYCLICAL OF POPE FRANCIS, AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 244

Whereas on June 18, 2015, Pope Francis published an encyclical letter on the environment that—

(1) declares, "A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system. In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors (such as volcanic activity, variations in the earth's orbit and axis, the solar cycle), yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly as a result of human activity.;"

(2) states, "If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us. A rise in the sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter

of the world's population lives on the coast or nearby, and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas.”;

(3) affirms, “There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy. Worldwide there is minimal access to clean and renewable energy. There is still a need to develop adequate storage technologies.”;

(4) emphasizes, “The deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: ‘Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest.’”; and

(5) proclaims, “Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day.”;

Whereas leading scientific organizations in the United States have affirmed that human activity is the primary cause of climate change, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Meteorological Society, the American Chemical Society, the American Geophysical Union, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and many others;

Whereas the U.S. Global Change Research Program's 2014 National Climate Assessment documents that, over the past several decades, as a result of climate change, the United States has experienced more frequent and intense heat waves, record droughts, increased flooding in certain regions, increased hurricane intensity, frequency, and duration, increased frequency and intensity of winter storms, rising sea levels, and other ecologically problematic trends; and

Whereas if present climate trends persist, the effects of a warming planet will become more catastrophic, as the 2014 National Climate Assessment states, “Children, the elderly, the sick, and the poor are especially vulnerable. There is mounting evidence that harm to the nation will increase substantially in the future unless global emissions of heat-trapping gases are greatly reduced.”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate stands with Pope Francis and the scientific consensus that—

(1) human activity is the primary driver of climate change;

(2) present climate trends are unsustainable; and

(3) immediate action must be taken to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to limit the deleterious effects of human-induced climate change.

SENATE RESOLUTION 245—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 13, 2015, AS ‘NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK’

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 245

Whereas direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (in this resolution collectively referred to as “direct support professionals”) are the primary providers of publicly funded long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas a direct support professional must build a close, respectful, and trusting relationship with an individual with disabilities;

Whereas a direct support professional assists individuals with disabilities with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support, including—

(1) preparation of meals;

(2) helping with medications;

(3) assisting with bathing, dressing, and other aspects of daily living;

(4) assisting individuals with physical disabilities in accessing their environment;

(5) providing transportation to school, work, religious activities, and recreational activities; and

(6) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to the families, friends, and communities of the individuals;

Whereas direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities in making choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals are integral to helping individuals with disabilities live successfully in the communities of the individuals, avoiding more costly institutional care;

Whereas the participation of direct support professionals in medical care planning is critical to the successful transition from medical events to post-acute care and long-term support and services;

Whereas many direct support professionals are the primary financial providers for the families of the direct support professionals;

Whereas direct support professionals are a critical element in supporting individuals—

(1) who receive health care services for severe chronic health conditions; and

(2) with functional limitations;

Whereas direct support professionals are hardworking, taxpaying citizens who provide an important service to individuals with disabilities, yet many direct support professionals continue to earn low wages, receive inadequate benefits, and have limited opportunities for advancement, resulting in high turnover and vacancy rates, adversely affecting the quality of support for, and the safety and health of, individuals with disabilities;

Whereas there is a documented critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), recognized the importance of community-based services for individuals with disabilities in holding that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), States must provide community-based treatment to individuals with disabilities when—

(1) the services are appropriate;

(2) the affected individuals do not oppose community-based treatment; and

(3) community-based treatment can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the

needs of other individuals with disabilities; and

Whereas, in 2015, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home-based and community-based settings, and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 13, 2015, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States;

(4) commends direct support professionals as integral to the long-term support of and services for individuals with disabilities; and

(5) finds that the successful implementation of the public policies affecting individuals with disabilities in the United States depends on the dedication of direct support professionals.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to submit, with my colleague Senator COLLINS, a resolution designating the week beginning September 13, 2015, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.” The Senate has passed a similar resolution each year for the past seven years, and National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week holds special significance this year as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA.

Direct support professionals play an incredibly important role in providing essential community supports to millions of Americans with disabilities. These dedicated workers assist individuals with disabilities with daily life activities such as dressing, eating, and bathing, and they help ensure that people with disabilities can be active participants in their communities.

Let me share with you the story of Ed Wainwright, Jr., a direct support professional who was recognized this year for his incredible work and dedication when he was given Maryland's Direct Support Professional, DSP, of the Year Award by the American Network of Community Options and Resources, ANCOR. Ed works for New Horizons Supported Services in Upper Marlboro, MD, and has been a direct support professional for over 6 years. He and his staff provide essential support to 33 individuals with disabilities. Ed's primary job is to teach and reinforce practical life skills for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by integrating strategic goal setting with daily living, with the goal of achieving self-sufficiency.

Ed is committed to helping individuals with disabilities realize their full potential. For example, Ed once worked with a man who had suffered a traumatic brain injury in a car accident as a youth. After the accident, he could not walk, and the prognosis for regaining his mobility was poor. After work, Ed would often take this young man to the gym with him to help rebuild his strength, on Ed's own time