

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