

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

and using his personal gym membership. Recognizing this young man's creative abilities, Ed also took it upon himself to research and apply for a grant to help pay for his college expenses. Thanks in large part to Ed's commitment and dedication, that young man is a now graphic designer and, as he continues to work on his rehabilitation, taking steps again is a real possibility.

As Ed's story demonstrates, the job of a direct support professional is not easy. The hours are often long, and the wages are low. The job can be physically laborious, as well as emotionally draining. The reward for direct support professionals, however, is that they are able to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and help fulfill the promise of the ADA by making it possible for these Americans to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize the millions of direct support professionals who provide essential services to individuals with disabilities, to thank them for their commitment and dedication, and to express our appreciation for the critically important work they do every day throughout our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator COLLINS in expressing our appreciation for our country's direct support professionals and supporting the resolution designating the week beginning September 13, 2015, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 246—COMMEMORATING 80 YEARS SINCE THE CREATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 246

Whereas on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law, thereby establishing a vital - and ultimately universal - insurance program for workers and families under which workers earn coverage by working and paying Social Security taxes on their earnings;

Whereas Congress further strengthened Social Security over the years by enacting improvements to, and expansion of, retirement,

survivors, and disability benefits for workers and their families, and now Social Security provides economic security to the Nation, and touches the life of nearly every American;

Whereas Social Security is one program that offers two essential earned benefits that are fundamentally linked: benefits for workers with disabilities and benefits for retired workers;

Whereas in 2014, more than 48,000,000 retirement and survivors beneficiaries and about 11,000,000 disability beneficiaries, including eligible family members, received Social Security benefits;

Whereas Social Security benefits are modest but fundamental to the economic security of our Nation, with the average disability benefit less than \$1,200 per month, or less than \$14,000 per year—falling just above the poverty line—and the average retirement benefit of close to \$1,300 per month, or less than \$16,000 per year;

Whereas older Americans rely heavily on Social Security, with 9 out of 10 individuals age 65 and older receiving Social Security benefits, and among elderly Social Security beneficiaries, 52 percent of married couples and 74 percent of unmarried persons receive more than half of their income from Social Security;

Whereas the Social Security Administration will issue almost \$900,000,000 in earned benefits this year, while more than 1,200 Social Security field offices nationwide provide essential, accurate, and face-to-face services to millions of Americans each day;

Whereas workers who are supported by disability benefits today will receive retirement benefits at full retirement age because Social Security Disability Insurance ensures that workers who are no longer able to work and their families are protected from the loss of future retirement benefits;

Whereas Social Security's Disability Insurance protections are especially important to older workers, with 70 percent of Social Security Disability Insurance beneficiaries are older than 50 and 30 percent are older than 60;

Whereas Social Security has evolved with changes in the American workforce, with the number of working women who are fully insured for Social Security benefits more than doubling between 1970 and today;

Whereas Social Security provides fundamental protection to workers of every age, including young workers, who have a one-in-three chance of dying or needing Social Security disability benefits before reaching retirement age;

Whereas Social Security is America's "family insurance plan," providing more than 9 out of 10 American workers and their families basic but critical protection in the event they can no longer work to support themselves and their families due to a severe medical condition;

Whereas, Social Security provides a lifeline for almost 7,000,000 children nationwide who receive benefits directly because a parent has died, become disabled, or retired, or indirectly because they live with a relative who is eligible to collect benefits;

Whereas Social Security is efficient - administrative expenses are less than one percent of benefits paid - and benefit payments are 99 percent accurate; and

Whereas Social Security has dramatically reduced poverty, with research indicating that the entire reduction in elderly poverty between 1967 and 2000 was due to Social Security, that without Social Security 40 percent of the population older than 65 would be poor, and that Social Security benefits lifted an estimated 2,000,000 children out of poverty in 2013: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Social Security provides earned benefits that are crucial to the economic security of our Nation and must be preserved to ensure future generations of Americans are protected;

(2) with the strong support of the Federal Government, Social Security must continue to deliver guaranteed retirement and life insurance benefits for workers and their families, as well as serve as an indispensable safety net for the most vulnerable segments of American society, including children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and the poor; and

(3) while the Trust Funds that support Social Security are projected to pay all benefits through 2034, Congress should act to ensure this vital program can support workers and families far into the future, but should reject proposals that weaken or privatize Social Security and should consider proposals to strengthen Social Security benefits.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes in my capacity as ranking Democrat on the Committee on Finance to talk about the upcoming 80th anniversary of a great moment in our country's history—the creation of the Social Security Program on August 14, 1935.

I am very pleased to be joined by all of my colleagues on this side of the aisle in the introduction of a resolution demonstrating how much we appreciate this historic anniversary. Thanks in large part to Social Security, old age in America is no longer synonymous with hardship. American workers have the great comfort of knowing that if the worst happens, Social Security will be there for them and their families.

I remember how essential Social Security was to many of the older people I worked with when I was director of the Oregon Gray Panthers. However, eight short decades ago, seniors often lived in poverty and hard-working Americans had no guarantee of economic security. Our country was in the throes of the Great Depression. Unemployment topped 20 percent. You had bread lines for blocks, and the homeless population was growing. There was no social safety net, no lifeline that offered some measure of dignity. If a person lost their job, became disabled, suffered the loss of a family member, they were on their own. There was nowhere to turn. Life was difficult for many Americans but none more so than the poor, the elderly, or the disabled. Tragically, many aging and disabled Americans without family to care for them ended up destitute or on the street.

America is now a different place, thanks in no small part to the protection of Social Security. It is one of the strongest threads in America's safety net, protecting the well-being of millions and keeping millions more out of poverty. This year nearly 60 million American workers and eligible family members will receive nearly \$900 billion in retirement, survivors, and disability benefits.

Among older Social Security beneficiaries, more than half of married couples and nearly three-quarters of