

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 267—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM

Mrs. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COONS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 267

Whereas the Federal Perkins Loan program is the longest running Federal student loan program in the United States, created in 1958 as the National Defense Student Loan Program and later called the National Direct Loan Program;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans are efficient, need-based, low-interest loans that serve 500,000 low-income college students with high need at approximately 1,500 colleges and universities each year;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans have favorable terms for students, including—

(1) interest is not charged while a student is in school;

(2) the interest rate is low and fixed; and

(3) a borrower may have all or part of a Federal Perkins loans cancelled if the borrower undertakes certain public service jobs for a period of 1 to 5 years;

Whereas participating colleges and universities share the risk of the Federal Perkins Loan Program because the colleges and universities provide a ⅓ match to Federal capital contributions and loans are made using funds repaid by previous borrowers;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans feature the human touch of campus-based servicing, which allows on-campus administrators to provide Federal Perkins borrowers with 1-on-1 service;

Whereas Federal Perkins loans have made higher education possible for millions of people of the United States; and

Whereas without Federal Perkins loans, thousands of people in the United States will lose the chance at a higher education and a better life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate strongly supports the continuation of the Federal Perkins Loan program in order to provide educational opportunities to future generations of students who need low-cost financing to make their dreams of higher education possible.

SENATE RESOLUTION 268—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 268

Whereas the Syrian conflict has driven more than 7,500,000 Syrians to relocate within Syria, more than 4,000,000 Syrian to flee as

refugees to neighboring countries, and hundreds of thousands of Syrians to seek asylum in Europe;

Whereas Syria's neighbors are on the front line of the crisis, and Jordan, Turkey, and Lebanon in particular are currently hosting millions of refugees, resulting in tremendous social and economic impacts;

Whereas Europe is facing its worst refugee crisis since World War II;

Whereas members of the international community have a moral responsibility to provide assistance to Syrian refugees, as well as a national security interest in addressing both the insecurity that is driving Syrians from their homes and the spillover effects from that conflict;

Whereas all members of the international community, including regional powers, should contribute substantially to the humanitarian effort so as to avoid shortfalls like those experienced by the World Food Programme, which has been forced to reduce its assistance to refugees.

Whereas the European Union has agreed to resettle 120,000 of the refugees who have reached frontline European nations—an important first step in implementing a comprehensive European refugee policy;

Whereas the Governments of Germany and Sweden, among others, have shown great generosity towards Syrian refugees;

Whereas the United States Government remains the largest contributor to the humanitarian effort in Syria;

Whereas the United States Government will accept at least 10,000 Syrian refugees next year, marking a significant increase from the approximately 1,500 admitted since the conflict began; and

Whereas the United States Government should continue to rigorously employ its existing robust and thorough screening process for refugees to effectively mitigate any potential security threats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the scale and complexity of the Syrian refugee crisis and the need for the international community to work together to provide resources and capacity to aid refugees;

(2) recognizes the generosity and humanitarian commitment of Syria's neighbors who have worked to absorb the vast majority of refugees, as well as the European nations who have made commitments to share in the refugee resettlement effort;

(3) welcomes the President's decision to admit at least 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016, and to increase the overall number of refugees received by the United States to 85,000 in 2016 and 100,000 in 2017, as an important continuation of United States humanitarian efforts; and

(4) recognizes that the refugee crisis is a symptom of the broader conflict in Syria, the persecution of persons based on identity groups, including Christians, Yezidis, Turkmen, and Kurds, and instability in the Middle East and North Africa, and that efforts to resolve those challenges are a necessary component of any plan to address the refugee crisis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2015, AS "NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN,

Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 269

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 42 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not fewer than 1,900,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,681,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas in 2012—

(1) commercial fish landings generated \$5,100,000,000; and

(2) recreational anglers—

(A) took more than 70,000,000 fishing trips; and

(B) spent \$24,600,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, is recognized as "National Estuaries Week" to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it