

Excessive caseloads are another example of how Americans' right to counsel is defective. In 2009, the Constitution Project's National Right to Counsel Committee—comprised of current and former judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement officials—released a report entitled "Justice Denied: America's Continuing Neglect of Our Constitutional Right to Counsel." The report found that all too often indigent defendants were provided counsel late or not at all. Even when a public defender represented a defendant, the report showed that lawyers' excessive caseloads made effective representation simply not possible. In conclusion, the report recommended "litigation to remedy such deficiencies should be instituted."

To help fix the indigent defense crisis, the Equal Justice Under Law Act of 2016 would implement this common-sense recommendation into action. The bill would create a federal cause of action that allows indigent criminal defendants to file a lawsuit against states and localities for systemic failures to provide effective assistance of counsel in felony cases. Litigation to be a useful tool to remedy systemic failures when indigent defense systems require defense attorneys to represent more clients than they can competently represent or otherwise fail to assure legal representation in compliance with the Sixth Amendment's right to counsel.

The bill would require states to consult with representatives from the public defender community prior to distributing Byrne JAG funds. Currently, Federal defenders are eligible for Byrne JAG funds. Yet, in practice, Federal defenders may not get the same proportion of these funds as prosecutors and law enforcement. So this provision would ensure that defenders are consulted before critical Federal funds are distributed.

This access to justice legislation has the support of numerous civil rights groups, such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Innocence Project.

Our public defender system is broken. It is time we fix it. I am proud to introduce the Gideon Act and the Equal Justice Under Law Act and I urge their speedy passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 520—RE-AFFIRMING THE STRONG RELATIONSHIP, BOTH IN DEFENSE AND TRADE, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. JOHN-SON, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 520

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom have a special relationship ground-

ed in the rule of law, democratic principles, a common language, and a strong commitment to peace and security;

Whereas, on August 14, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the Atlantic Charter, which defined American and British war aims and laid the foundation for a post-war international system founded on free trade and freedom of the seas that persists to this day;

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his "Iron Curtain Speech" in Fulton, Missouri, stating, "Neither the sure prevention of war, nor the continuous rise of world organization will be gained without what I have called the fraternal association of the English-speaking peoples . . . a special relationship between the British Commonwealth and Empire and the United States";

Whereas the United States and United Kingdom have stood side by side through two World Wars, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror with Americans and Britons fighting and dying together to defend our common interests and principles;

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom have played central roles in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and are critical to maintaining its future strength;

Whereas senior military officers from the United Kingdom have served in advisory or command positions in United States headquarters, including combatant commands such as CENTCOM, and officers from the United States have served in similar roles in the British military;

Whereas the United States and United Kingdom made immense contributions in personnel and resources to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the NATO-led effort to train the Afghan National Security Forces, and to assist the Afghan people in rebuilding their country;

Whereas the Defense Trade Cooperation Treaty between the United States and United Kingdom, which was signed in 2007, ratified by the Senate on September 29, 2010, and entered into force in April 2012, introduces greater cooperation and access in order to meet the requirements of mutual defense frameworks;

Whereas both nations continue a close strategic partnership in developing and maintaining an effective nuclear deterrent, including developing the next-generation of nuclear ballistic missile submarines and the continued deployment and modernization of a submarine-launched ballistic missile;

Whereas the close and expanding economic ties between the United States and United Kingdom, including the world's largest bilateral foreign direct investment partnership, have greatly contributed to the continued prosperity of both nations; and

Whereas, on June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom held a European Union membership referendum, and the British people voted to leave the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom will not be affected by the outcome of the June 23, 2016 referendum or by changes to the United Kingdom's relationship with the European Union;

(2) recognizes that continued defense and intelligence cooperation between the United States and United Kingdom is vital to the national security of both countries;

(3) supports the continued political and military leadership displayed by both nations in the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-

tion (NATO) since it was founded 67 years ago; and

(4) urges the President to commence discussions with the Government of the United Kingdom, at their request, to ensure the continuance of our current bilateral trade relationship and as necessary, negotiations for the development of a free-trade agreement between our two countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2016 AS NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. COONS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 521

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas in 2016, approximately 22,280 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed, and 14,240 women will die of ovarian cancer in the United States;

Whereas the mortality rate for ovarian cancer has not significantly decreased since the "War on Cancer" was declared more than 40 years ago;

Whereas a quarter of women will die within 1 year of diagnosis with ovarian cancer and over half will die within 5 years;

Whereas there is the mammogram to detect breast cancer and the Pap smear to detect cervical cancer, there is currently no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas the lack of an early detection test means that approximately 80 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and approximately 20 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a hereditary disposition for ovarian cancer, which places them at even a higher risk;

Whereas scientists and physicians have uncovered changes in the BRCA genes that some women inherit from their parents, which may make them 30 times more likely to develop ovarian cancer;

Whereas the family history of a woman has been found to play an important role in accurately assessing her risk of developing ovarian cancer and medical experts believe the family history of a woman should be taken into consideration during her annual well woman visit;

Whereas many experts in health prevention now recommend genetic testing for young women with a family history of breast and ovarian cancer;

Whereas women who know they are at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer may undertake prophylactic measures to help reduce the risk of developing these diseases;

Whereas the Society of Gynecologic Oncology now recommends that all women diagnosed with ovarian cancer receive counseling and genetic testing;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;