

Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 560

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for developing a nuclear weapons program at the service, and for the benefit of, the United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014; and

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015;

Whereas a national day of remembrance time capsule has been crossing the United States, collecting stories and artifacts of nuclear weapons program workers relating to the nuclear defense era of the United States, and a remembrance quilt has been constructed to memorialize the contribution of those workers;

Whereas the stories and artifacts reflected in the time capsule and the remembrance quilt reinforce the importance of recognizing nuclear weapons program workers; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2016, as a national day of remembrance for the nuclear weapons program workers of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2016, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers in the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE COMPETITION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE, AND TO EXTEND ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO EVERY AMERICAN THROUGH THE CHOICE OF A PUBLIC INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr.

CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 561

Whereas under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) (referred to in this preamble as the “Affordable Care Act”), 20,000,000 Americans have gained health insurance coverage, including 11,000,000 Americans that have coverage through the public exchanges created by that Act;

Whereas the uninsured rate is at its lowest point in history, but there is more work to be done to provide access to coverage for Americans that remain uninsured, and to reduce deductibles and out-of-pocket costs for the 31,000,000 Americans who are currently underinsured;

Whereas before the date of enactment of the Affordable Care Act, millions of individuals with preexisting conditions were denied health coverage by insurance companies that controlled who received health care in the United States;

Whereas profound disparities persist in health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and geography, and nearly 4,000,000 adults, disproportionately people of color, lack coverage as a result of the failure of 19 States to expand the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) under the Affordable Care Act;

Whereas public insurance options for workers’ compensation insurance have resulted in lower rates for small businesses and more competition in several States;

Whereas giving all Americans the choice of a public, nonprofit health insurance option would—

(1) lead to increased competition and reduced premiums;

(2) cut wasteful spending on administration, marketing, and executive pay; and

(3) ensure that consumers have the affordable choices they deserve;

Whereas establishing a State-based public health insurance plan is possible through the use of State innovation waivers established by the Affordable Care Act, which allow States to promote unique, creative, and innovative approaches to implementing meaningful health care reform, including a public option;

Whereas public programs such as the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) often deliver care more cost-effectively by limiting administrative overhead and securing better prices from providers; and

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office has found that a public health insurance option would save taxpayers billions of dollars: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports efforts to build on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) by ensuring that, in addition to the health coverage options provided by private insurers, every American has access to a public health insurance option, which, when established, will—

(1) strengthen competition;

(2) improve affordability for families by reducing premiums and increasing choices; and

(3) save American taxpayers billions of dollars.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9, 2016, THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2016, AS “EARTH SCIENCE WEEK”

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 562

Whereas 2016 marks the 19th annual international Earth Science Week, designated by the American Geosciences Institute to help the public gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth;

Whereas the theme of Earth Science Week for 2016, “Our Shared Geoh heritage”, promotes better understanding and appreciation of sites or areas with geologic features of significant scientific, educational, cultural, historic, or aesthetic value;

Whereas the study of the Earth sciences leads to an improved understanding of the Earth’s natural systems and the interplay between human society and those systems;

Whereas the Earth sciences enable the discovery, development, and responsible production of the mineral base of the United States, which contributes to the strength of the economy of the United States and raises the standard of living in the United States;

Whereas geologic mapping and remote sensing technologies provide the foundational knowledge of Earth’s natural systems that is integral—

(1) to the discovery, development, and conservation of energy, water, and natural resources; and

(2) to the safe disposal of waste products;

Whereas the geological aspects of resources, hazards, and the environment are vital to land management and land use decisions at the local, State, regional, national, and international levels;

Whereas the Earth sciences provide the basis for locating, assessing, monitoring, and mitigating natural hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, droughts, wildfires, subsidence, hurricanes, coastal erosion, and volcanic eruptions;

Whereas the Earth sciences are vital in protecting health and human safety during natural hazards events;

Whereas Earth scientists working in marine environments contribute to the understanding of global oceans, enabling advances in food management, national security, energy resources, transportation, economic growth, and recreation;

Whereas the Earth sciences support the ability to manage healthy and productive soils and ocean and river waters and fisheries, the foundations of the food supply of the United States;

Whereas the Earth sciences enhance understanding of current and past global conditions and offer a basis for anticipating future conditions;

Whereas the Earth sciences contribute to understanding Earth as a planet in the solar system and the universe;

Whereas Earth science research leads to the development of innovative new technologies and industries that fuel the economy of the United States and improve quality of life in the United States;

Whereas Earth science researchers and educators drive creativity and passion for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics (commonly known as “STEM”) fields among students of all ages through diverse and innovative education and public outreach efforts;

Whereas geoscientists and researchers in the labs, universities, research institutions, and Federal agencies of the United States continually push the frontiers of human knowledge, help develop and incubate the concepts and programs that keep the companies and industries of the United States at the innovative forefront of the world’s economy, and inspire future generations of researchers, scientists, and informed citizens; and

Whereas the Earth sciences make vital contributions to an understanding of and respect for nature and the Earth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of October 9, 2016, through October 15, 2016, as “Earth Science Week”;

(2) expresses strong support for the goals and ideals of Earth Science Week to increase the understanding of and interest in the Earth sciences at the local, State, national, and international levels;

(3) recognizes the importance of education and public outreach efforts to ensure that the people of the United States gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the impact of the Earth sciences on their daily lives;

(4) encourages K-12 students—

(A) to participate in local, State, and national events in connection with Earth Science Week; and

(B) to get involved in the celebration of Earth Science Week by exploring artistic and academic applications of the Earth sciences; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe Earth Science Week with appropriate activities—

(A) to gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the Earth sciences; and

(B) to encourage stewardship of the Earth.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE, RECOVER, AND IDENTIFY ALL MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED-FOR PERSONNEL OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCAIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 563

Whereas more than 83,000 personnel of the United States are still unaccounted-for around the world from past wars and conflicts;

Whereas, though recognizing that an estimated 50,000 of these World War II personnel, were lost deep at sea and are unlikely ever to be recovered, thousands of families and friends have waited decades for the accounting of their loved ones and comrades in arms;

Whereas the families of these brave Americans deserve our nation’s best efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for their missing loved ones;

Whereas the National League of POW/MIA Families, and their iconic POW/MIA flag, pioneered the accounting effort since 1970 and has been joined in this humanitarian quest for answers by the Korean War, Cold War and World War II families, fully supported by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign

Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Special Forces Association, Special Operations Association, Rolling Thunder, and other more recently formed groups, and thousands of families are yearning and advocating for answers concerning the fates of their loved ones and comrades in arms;

Whereas the mission of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency of the Department of Defense is to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing members of the Armed Forces of the United States, designated civilians of the Department, and other designated personnel; and

Whereas the recovery and investigation teams of the Department of Defense deploy to countries around the world to account as fully as possible for these missing and otherwise unaccounted-for personnel of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and other elements of the Department of Defense, other elements of the Federal Government, and all foreign countries to intensify efforts to investigate, recover, identify and account as fully as possible for all missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States around the world; and

(2) calls upon all foreign countries with information on missing personnel of the United States, or with missing personnel of the United States within their territories, to cooperate fully with the Government of the United States to provide the fullest possible accounting for all missing personnel of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—CONDEMNING NORTH KOREA’S FIFTH NUCLEAR TEST ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 564

Whereas the Democratic People’s Republic of North Korea (DPRK) conducted its fifth nuclear test on September 9, 2016, in Punggye-ri, North Hamgyong Province;

Whereas North Korea’s nuclear test on September 9th, the second nuclear test this year, follows an unprecedented campaign of ballistic missile launches, which the Government of North Korea claims are intended to serve as delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons targeting the United States and United States allies South Korea and Japan;

Whereas North Korea continues to test nuclear weapons and intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, which pose a major threat to the United States and United States allies and partners in Asia and around the world;

Whereas the Government of North Korea’s belligerent behavior has been in direct defiance of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 (adopted October 14, 2006), 1874 (adopted June 12, 2009), 2087 (adopted January 22, 2013), 2094 (adopted March 7, 2013), and 2270 (adopted March 2, 2016) and the non-proliferation regime;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council strongly condemned North Korea’s nuclear test and expressed its willingness to begin to work immediately on appropriate measures under Article 41 in a United Nations Security Council Resolution after its meeting on September 10, 2016;

Whereas President Barack Obama stated in response to the nuclear test that “far from achieving its stated national security and economic development goals, North Korea’s provocative and destabilizing actions have instead served to isolate and impoverish its people through its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile capabilities”;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated in response to the nuclear test that “the D.P.R.K.’s repeated and willful violations of its obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolutions, its belligerent and erratic threats, and web of illicit activities around the world indicate it has no interest in participating in global affairs as a responsible member of the international community”;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power stated in explanation of the vote on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2270 that “the chronic suffering of the people of North Korea is the direct result of the choices made by the DPRK government, a government that has consistently prioritized its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs over providing for the most basic needs of its own people . . . the North Korean government would rather grow its nuclear weapons program than grow its children”;

Whereas Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye stated, in response to the nuclear test, “North Korea’s nuclear test, already the second this year, cannot be regarded as anything else but a direct defiance against the international community . . . the nuclear threat posed by North Korea is an urgent and present threat. Accordingly, our and the international community’s response too should now be completely different from before.”;

Whereas Congress passed the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act (NKSPEA) on February 18, 2016 (Public Law 114-122);

Whereas NKSPEA imposes mandatory sanctions on individuals who contribute to North Korea’s nuclear program, proliferation activities, malicious cyberattacks, and human rights abuses;

Whereas, on June 1 2016, the Department of the Treasury designated North Korea as a “primary money laundering concern” under section 5318A of title 31, United States Code;

Whereas, on July 6, 2016, the Department of the Treasury designated top officials of the North Korean regime, including North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, ten other individuals, and five entities, for their role as perpetrators of human rights abuses in North Korea; and

Whereas additional measures to further curtail North Korea’s access to international financial markets, further impede trade that benefits the Government of North Korea, government and party officials, and military entities, and freeze assets of North Korean officials are available both through already authorized unilateral United States policy, including secondary sanctions on entities that facilitate trade with North Korea and designations for actions which undermine cybersecurity, and through the United Nations Security Council: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the North Korean regime for continuing its dangerous provocations, focusing solely on the advancement of its nuclear and missile capabilities while violating the human rights of its people;

(2) calls on the North Korean regime to immediately and unconditionally meet its obligation to abandon its nuclear weapons and missile programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner;