

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 122—DESIGNATING APRIL 2017 AS “NATIONAL 9-1-1 EDUCATION MONTH”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 122

Whereas 9-1-1 is recognized throughout the United States as the number to call in an emergency to receive immediate help from police, fire, emergency medical services, or other appropriate emergency response entities;

Whereas, in 1967, the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a “single number should be established” nationwide for reporting emergency situations, and various Federal Government agencies and governmental officials supported and encouraged the recommendation;

Whereas, in 1968, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (commonly known as “AT&T”) announced that it would establish the digits 9-1-1 as the emergency code throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress designated 9-1-1 as the national emergency call number in the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-81; 113 Stat. 1286);

Whereas section 102 of the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 (47 U.S.C. 942 note) declared an enhanced 9-1-1 system to be “a high national priority” and part of “our Nation’s homeland security and public safety”;

Whereas it is important that policy makers at all levels of government understand the importance of 9-1-1, how the 9-1-1 system works, and the steps that are needed to modernize the 9-1-1 system;

Whereas the 9-1-1 system is the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and the emergency response system in the United States and is often the first place emergencies of all magnitudes are reported, making 9-1-1 a significant homeland security asset;

Whereas more than 6,000 9-1-1 public safety answering points serve more than 3,000 counties and parishes throughout the United States;

Whereas telecommunicators at public safety answering points answer more than 200,000,000 9-1-1 calls each year in the United States;

Whereas a growing number of 9-1-1 calls are made using wireless and Internet Protocol-based communications services;

Whereas a growing segment of the population of the United States, including individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind, or who have speech disabilities, is increasingly communicating with nontraditional text, video, and instant messaging communications services and expects those services to be able to connect directly to 9-1-1;

Whereas the growth and variety of means of communication, including mobile and Internet Protocol-based systems, impose challenges for accessing 9-1-1 and implementing an enhanced 9-1-1 system and require increased education and awareness about the capabilities of different means of communication;

Whereas numerous other “N-1-1” and 800 number services exist for nonemergency situations, including 2-1-1, 3-1-1, 5-1-1, 7-1-1, 8-1-1, poison control centers, and mental health hotlines, and the public needs to be educated on when to use those services in addition to or instead of 9-1-1;

Whereas international visitors and immigrants make up an increasing percentage of the population of the United States each year, and visitors and immigrants may have limited knowledge of the emergency calling system in the United States;

Whereas people of all ages use 9-1-1 and it is critical to educate people on the proper use of 9-1-1;

Whereas senior citizens are highly likely to need to access 9-1-1 and many senior citizens are learning to use new technology;

Whereas thousands of 9-1-1 calls are made every year by children properly trained in the use of 9-1-1, which saves lives and underscores the critical importance of training children early in life about 9-1-1;

Whereas the 9-1-1 system is often misused, including by the placement of prank and nonemergency calls;

Whereas misuse of the 9-1-1 system results in costly and inefficient use of 9-1-1 and emergency response resources and needs to be reduced;

Whereas parents, teachers, and all other caregivers need to play an active role in 9-1-1 education for children, but can do so only after first being educated themselves;

Whereas there are many avenues for 9-1-1 public education, including safety fairs, school presentations, libraries, churches, businesses, public safety answering point tours or open houses, civic organizations, and senior citizen centers;

Whereas children, parents, teachers, and the National Parent Teacher Association make vital contributions to the education of children about the importance of 9-1-1 through targeted outreach efforts to public and private school systems;

Whereas the United States should strive to host at least 1 educational event regarding the proper use of 9-1-1 in every school in the country every year;

Whereas programs to promote proper use of 9-1-1 during National 9-1-1 Education Month could include—

- (1) public awareness events, including conferences, media outreach, and training activities for parents, teachers, school administrators, other caregivers, and businesses;
- (2) educational events in schools and other appropriate venues; and
- (3) production and distribution of information about the 9-1-1 system designed to educate people of all ages on the importance and proper use of 9-1-1; and

Whereas the people of the United States deserve the best education regarding the use of 9-1-1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates April 2017 as “National 9-1-1 Education Month”; and
- (2) urges governmental officials, parents, teachers, school administrators, caregivers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, training events, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 123—DESIGNATING MAY 20, 2017, AS “KIDS TO PARKS DAY”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 123

Whereas the 7th annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 20, 2017;

Whereas the goal of Kids to Parks Day is to promote healthy outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship, empower young

people, and encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks and public land of the United States;

Whereas on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural and urban areas of the United States can be reintroduced to the splendid national, State, and neighborhood parks located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and come together for a day of active, wholesome fun; and

Whereas Kids to Parks Day will broaden an appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people, foster a safe setting for independent play and healthy adventure in neighborhood parks, and facilitate self-reliance while strengthening communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates May 20, 2017, as “Kids to Parks Day;”
- (2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces to the health and education of the young people of the United States; and
- (3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 124—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM IS A VALUABLE PROGRAM THAT PROTECTS AND ENHANCES THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 124

Whereas the National Sea Grant College Program, established in 1966, serves 31 States and 2 territories to strengthen the health and stewardship of local, State, and national coastal and marine resources;

Whereas 42 percent of the United States population lives or works in a coastal area, and coastal counties contribute over \$7,600,000,000 annually to the economy;

Whereas the National Sea Grant College Program is critical in improving the health of coastal ecosystems, supporting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, building resilient communities and economies, improving environmental literacy, and developing the next generation of students in science and technology;

Whereas the National Sea Grant College Program had an economic impact of \$575,000,000 in 2015 from a Federal investment of \$67,300,000, which is an 854-percent return on investment;