

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 1015. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to study the feasibility of designating a simple, easy-to-remember dialing code to be used for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the epidemic of suicide—a growing crisis that has devastated millions of families across our Nation. Over the past 8 years, the rate of deaths by suicide in our country has tripled. Let me repeat that. It has tripled, and the problem is particularly severe among young adults.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, suicide is now the third leading cause of death. In other words, more of America's youth die each year from suicide than cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined.

This crisis shows no signs of abating. Consider that each day in our Nation, there are an average of over 5,400 suicide attempts by young people in grades 7 to 12. In my home State of Utah, the statistics are particularly alarming. Every 14 hours, a Utahn commits suicide, resulting in an average of 630 deaths each year. The problem is so acute that Utah now has the fifth highest suicide rate in the Nation. This troubling trend is particularly pronounced among Utah's youth. Even though Utahns from ages 10 to 17 comprise only 13 percent of the State population, they represent nearly 23 percent of all suicide attempts. Suicide is now the leading cause of death among Utah's teenagers.

To stem the tide of teenage suicide in Utah, I convened a roundtable discussion in Salt Lake City last December that included community leaders, healthcare professionals, high school principals, and parents from across the State. There we discussed proven methods that destigmatize mental illness, a critical first step in addressing the suicide crisis. We also discussed the links between bullying and depression.

In an effort to prevent teen suicide, the effect of bullying cannot be overlooked. A recent study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* finds that kids who are bullied are more than twice as likely to consider suicide. In my home State of Utah, dozens of community leaders have drawn attention to the pernicious effects of bullying. The foremost among them is Dr. Greg Hudnall, a nationally recognized expert in suicide prevention. Dr. Hudnall found that between 8 and 12 percent of all suicides are committed by young people who have been bullied. To discourage bullying and to help our teenagers who are suffering most, Dr. Hudnall led in the development of

HOPE4UTAH. HOPE4UTAH is a dynamic peer-to-peer program designed to empower students in groups called Hope Squads. Hope Squads identify warning signs of depression in teenagers and offer help to those in need.

Wendy Nelson, principal of Utah's Syracuse High School, recently told me how Hope Squads have helped students at risk of suicide to connect with therapists that the school has made available on a regular basis. The high school has since partnered with a local community health center for help in addressing the need for help in this particular area and, of course, the need for mental health professionals in schools. This shortage of mental health counselors is a serious problem, not only in Utah but in schools across the Nation. It is a very, very serious problem.

In our December roundtable discussion, we learned that teen suicide is something schools, parents, and mental health professionals cannot address individually. Instead, a continuum of care must exist for each child from the first day of school to graduation. We must all work together to ensure that our children feel safe.

Educators play a vital role in maintaining an infrastructure of support for teenagers struggling with mental illness. Because educators are often the first to identify warning signs in vulnerable students, hundreds of teachers in Utah receive training in how to identify and respond to these signs. Once we know a teen is suffering, parents and mental health professionals can step in to provide ongoing care. Building community partnerships that involve everyone and that focus on evidence-based practices can save hundreds, if not thousands, of lives.

My main purpose in organizing the roundtable discussion was to find ways I could help prevent suicide on a national level. Increasing access to mental healthcare has been a fixture of my Senate service. Nearly 20 years ago, I convened the Senate Finance Committee's first hearing dedicated to mental health. More recently, I focused my legislative efforts on fighting prescription drug abuse, an epidemic that has only accelerated our Nation's mental health crisis. I played a leading role in passing the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and helped to draft the 21st Century Cures Act, which President Obama signed into law in December. Both bills take aim at the opioid epidemic that is ravaging entire communities across the Nation.

As a legislative body, we have set aside partisan differences in recent months to combat the opioid crisis as part of a broader effort to address growing rates of mental illness and death by suicide.

But there is more we can do to help. To begin, we need to provide better and more immediate access to counseling and mental health services. This is one of the main takeaways from last year's roundtable discussion. So often we hear

that those seeking help are just one positive interaction away from giving life another chance. As Utah State Senator Daniel Thatcher said:

If you talk to someone, they live. If you connect them to support, they live.

Laura Warburton, a Utah mother who lost her daughter to suicide, said that the day her daughter died, she had attempted to make one last call to her therapist and could not get through.

While this is a complex problem with no simple, immediate answer, there are steps we can take to help. Today, we are taking those critical first steps to prevent future tragedies from taking place.

In response to what I learned during the suicide roundtable in Utah, I have joined Senator JOE DONNELLY in introducing the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act, a bipartisan proposal that will make it easier for Americans of all ages to get the help and treatment they need when they are experiencing suicidal thoughts. The current suicide prevention lifeline system and veterans crisis line are in desperate need of reform. Our bill will require the Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to study the current national suicide hotline system and make recommendations to Congress on how we can improve it.

Across our great Nation, there are millions of people, especially young people, who are alone and suffering in the shadows of depression. Many of them are bombarded by suicidal thoughts and have no idea where to turn for help. To make matters worse, the national suicide hotline number, 1-800-273-TALK, is not an intuitive or easy number to remember, particularly for those experiencing a mental health emergency.

Fortunately, the success of the 911 emergency system provides a model for addressing this problem. My bill will require the Federal Communications Commission to recommend an easy-to-remember, three-digit number for the national suicide prevention hotline. I believe that by making the national suicide prevention lifeline system more user-friendly and accessible, we can save thousands of lives by helping people find the help they need when they need it most.

In introducing this legislation, I wish to thank my fellow Utahn, Congressman CHRIS STEWART. Congressman STEWART has been an invaluable partner in offering some of the most important measures of this bill. Additionally, I would like to thank the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. I also wish to express my appreciation for the support we have received from the Utah State Legislature, Utah's attorney general, and the Utah Department of Health Services, as well as several groups from the law enforcement community.

This proposal transcends party lines and stands to save thousands of lives.

We cannot delay this effort to prevent suicide. So I call on my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to act quickly to pass this bill. Your support for this legislation represents your commitment to preventing future tragedies. I ask all of you today, regardless of your party affiliation, to cosponsor this legislation. In doing so, you can help us help those who need our help the most. There is absolutely no time to lose.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1028. A bill to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my colleague from Wisconsin, Senator BALDWIN, that would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a panel to develop a national strategy to recognize and support the more than forty million family caregivers in the United States. I am pleased that Senators MURKOWSKI and BENNET have joined us as cosponsors.

The United States' population is aging. Every day, 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 years old. Americans 85 and older—our oldest old—are the fastest growing segment of our population. This is the population that is most at risk of multiple and interacting health problems that can lead to disability and the need for round-the-clock care.

At the very time that our population is aging, birth rates are declining. While the need for care and support is increasing, the numbers of professional and informal caregivers is shrinking. In the future, more people will have to rely on fewer caregivers.

Families will likely continue to be the most important source of support for people with long-term care needs. We must do more to support the more than 43 million family caregivers in the United States who make remarkable sacrifices to care for their loved ones. While it is impossible to put a dollar amount to the value of the devotion, time, and services that these caregivers provide, it is estimated that in 2013 family caregivers provided \$470 billion in uncompensated long-term care. This figure nearly equals the annual sales of the four largest United States tech companies combined.

Family caregivers provide tremendous value, and they also face many challenges. Caregivers experience high levels of stress and have a greater incidence of chronic conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and depression. Caregiving can be an isolating experience. Last week, the Aging Committee held a hearing highlighting that social isolation is a serious risk factor for depression, anxiety, dementia, functional decline, and even death.

The average caregiver is a 49-year-old woman. She is caring for a 69-year-old relative living with a long-term physical condition. That relative is often a parent. She has been providing care for four years on average, spending 24.4 hours a week. She may be raising her own children and working full time.

Other caregivers are seniors. One third of family caregivers are age 65 or older, and even more susceptible to putting their own health at risk.

I am, therefore, introducing legislation with my colleague from Wisconsin that would lead to the development of a national strategy to recognize and support family caregivers. Titled the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage, or RAISE Family Caregivers Act, the legislation is based on a recommendation of the bipartisan Commission on Long Term Care. It is modeled after a law that I co-authored in 2010 with then-Senator Evan Bayh that created a coordinated strategic national plan to combat Alzheimer's disease.

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a National Family Caregiving Project to develop and sustain a national strategy to support family caregivers. The bill would create a Family Caregiving Advisory Council comprised of relevant Federal agencies and non-federal members. It would include representatives of family caregivers, older adults with long-term care needs, individuals with disabilities, employers, health and social service providers, advocates for family caregivers, state and local officials, and others with expertise in family caregiving.

The Advisory Council would be charged with making recommendations to the Secretary. The strategy and plan would be updated to reflect new developments. The plan would include an initial inventory and assessment of federally funded caregiver efforts. It would then identify specific actions that government and communities could take to support family caregivers.

The Project would be funded from existing funding appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services. No new funding is authorized and it would sunset in five years.

Family caregivers are an invaluable resource to our aging society. Chances are that, sooner or later, we will all either be family caregivers or someone who needs one. The RAISE Family Caregivers Act will launch a coordinated, national strategic plan that will help us to leverage our resources, promote innovation and promising practices, and provide our nation's family caregivers with much-needed recognition and support. Our bipartisan legislation is widely endorsed by aging and disability organizations. I urge all of our colleagues to join as cosponsors.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 1031. A bill to amend provisions in the securities laws relating to regula-

tion crowdfunding to raise the dollar amount limit and to clarify certain requirements and exclusions for funding portals established by such an Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1031

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Crowdfunding Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. CROWDFUNDING VEHICLES.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—The Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 4A(f)(3) (15 U.S.C. 77d-1(f)(3)), by inserting "by any of paragraphs (1) through (14) of" before "section 3(c)"; and

(2) in section 4(a)(6)(B) (15 U.S.C. 77d(a)(6)(B)), by inserting "other than a crowdfunding vehicle (as defined in section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a))), after "any investor".

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.—The Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2(a) (15 U.S.C. 80a-2(a)), by adding at the end the following:

"(55) The term 'crowdfunding vehicle' means a company—

"(A) whose purpose (as set forth in its organizational documents) is limited to acquiring, holding, and disposing securities issued by a single company in 1 or more transactions and made pursuant to section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d(a)(6));

"(B) that issues only 1 class of securities;

"(C) that receives no compensation in connection with such acquisition, holding, or disposition of securities;

"(D) no associated person of which receives any compensation in connection with such acquisition, holding or disposition of securities unless such person is acting as or on behalf of an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-1 et seq.) or registered as an investment adviser in the State in which the investment adviser maintains its principal office and place of business;

"(E) the securities of which have been issued in a transaction made pursuant to section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77d(a)(6)), if both the crowdfunding vehicle and the company whose securities it holds are co-issuers;

"(F) that is current in its ongoing disclosure obligations under section 227.202 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations;

"(G) the company whose securities it holds is current in its ongoing disclosure obligations under section 227.202 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations; and

"(H) is advised by an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-1 et seq.) or registered as an investment adviser in the State in which the investment adviser maintains its principal office and place of business."; and

(2) in section 3(c) (15 U.S.C. 80a-3(c)), by adding at the end the following:

"(15) Any crowdfunding vehicle.".

SEC. 3. CROWDFUNDING EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION.

Section 12(g)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(6)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Commission” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission”;

(2) by striking “section 4(6)” and inserting “section 4(a)(6)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) TREATMENT OF SECURITIES ISSUED BY CERTAIN ISSUERS.—An exemption under subparagraph (A) shall be unconditional for securities offered by an issuer that had a public float of less than \$75,000,000 as of the last business day of the issuer’s most recently completed semiannual period, computed by multiplying the aggregate worldwide number of shares of the issuer’s common equity securities held by non-affiliates by the price at which such securities were last sold (or the average bid and asked prices of such securities) in the principal market for such securities or, in the event the result of such public float calculation is zero, had annual revenues of less than \$50,000,000 as of the issuer’s most recently completed fiscal year.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**SENATE RESOLUTION 150—RECOGNIZING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY IN EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 150

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris, France, on December 10, 1948, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day” to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, evaluate freedom of the press around the world, defend against attacks on the independence of the media, and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 163 (2013)) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, that unequivocally condemns, in both conflict and nonconflict situations, all attacks on and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment;

Whereas the theme for the 2017 World Press Freedom Day, is “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media’s role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 111-166), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by

President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the annual Human Rights Reports of the Department of State to include the examination of freedom of the press;

Whereas, the 2016 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders in April 2016, indicated “a climate of fear and tension combined with increasing control over newsrooms by governments and private sector interests”;

Whereas, the 2016 World Press Freedom Index identified a decline in media freedom across all indicators, especially the destruction of media infrastructure, like the facilities and equipment of media, and the adoption of legislative frameworks that unjustly penalize journalists for doing their work;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2016, the three deadliest countries for journalists were Syria, Yemen, and Iraq, with more than half of the journalists killed in combat or crossfire, for the first time since the Committee to Protect Journalists began keeping records;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2016, 48 journalists were killed in cases where the motive was confirmed to be related to their reporting, 28 journalists were killed in cases where the motive was unconfirmed, and 2 media workers were killed;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, impunity for the murder of journalists remains systemic, with the killers going free in 9 out of 10 cases;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, as of December 1, 2016, 259 journalists worldwide were in prison, the highest number recorded since the group began systematically tracking imprisonment in 1990;

Whereas, according to the Freedom House report “Freedom of the Press 2017”, only 13 percent of the world’s population enjoys a Free press, meaning “coverage of political news is robust, the safety of journalists is guaranteed, state intrusion in media affairs is minimal, and the press is not subject to onerous legal or economic pressures.”;

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world;

(2) welcomes the celebration of World Press Freedom Day 2017 on May 3, 2017;

(3) commends journalists and media workers around the world for their essential role in promoting government accountability, defending democratic activity, and strengthening civil society, despite threats to their safety;

(4) pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives or liberty carrying out their work;

(5) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/68/163) by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses, and by reporting on the status of investigations;

(6) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(7) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(8) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon United States leadership in freedom of the press, on the basis of First Amendment protections;

(B) to improve the means by which the United States Government rapidly identifies, publicizes, and responds to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(C) to urge foreign governments to conduct transparent investigations and adjudications of the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(D) to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press in the annual Human Rights Reports and year round.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—COMMENDING THE NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY BEARCATS ON THEIR NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORIES

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 151

Whereas, on December 17, 2016, the Northwest Missouri State University football team defeated the University of North Alabama by a score of 29 to 3 in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division II national championship game in Kansas City, Kansas;

Whereas the victory was the sixth Division II national championship for Northwest Missouri State University since 1996 and the fourth since 2006;

Whereas the Bearcats have won 55 games and lost 2 games over the past 4 seasons, with 30 straight victories over the last 2 years;

Whereas former head coach Adam Dorrel is 1 of just 3 head coaches in Division II football to win 3 national titles, and athletic director Mel Tjeerdsma has the distinction of being 1 of the other coaches to accomplish that feat;

Whereas, on March 25, 2017, the Northwest Missouri State men’s basketball team defeated Fairmont State University in the NCAA Division II national championship, a first in the history of the Bearcats basketball program;

Whereas the Bearcats men’s basketball team finished the 2016-2017 season with a 29-1 record, earning coach Ben McCollum his third Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Coach of the Year award;

Whereas Bearcat guard, Justin Pitts, was named—

(1) Division II Player of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches; and

(2) Division II Bulletin Player of the Year; and

Whereas Northwest Missouri State University became the first Division II school to win championships for football and men’s basketball in the same academic year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Northwest Missouri State University for their Division II national championship victories in football and men’s basketball;

(2) recognizes the athletic prowess, hard work, and dedication exhibited by the players, coaches, support staff, and student body of Northwest Missouri State University; and

(3) congratulates the city of Maryville, Missouri, and Bearcat fans and alumni around the world.