

(j) GIFTS.—Subject to existing law, the Commission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

(k) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this title. These administrative services may include human resource management, budget, leasing, accounting, and payroll services.

(l) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACIA AND PUBLIC ACCESS TO MEETINGS AND MINUTES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Commission.

(2) MEETINGS AND MINUTES.—

(A) MEETINGS.—

(i) ADMINISTRATION.—All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or any portion of it may be closed to the public if it concerns matters or information described in section 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code. Interested persons shall be permitted to appear at open meetings and present oral or written statements on the subject matter of the meeting. The Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to any person appearing before it.

(ii) NOTICE.—All open meetings of the Commission shall be preceded by timely public notice in the Federal Register of the time, place, and subject of the meeting.

(B) MINUTES AND PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Minutes of each open meeting shall be kept and shall contain a record of the people present, a description of the discussion that occurred, and copies of all statements filed. The minutes and records of all open meetings and other documents that were made available to or prepared for the Commission shall be available for public inspection and copying at a single location in the offices of the Commission.

(m) ARCHIVING.—Not later than the date of termination of the Commission, all records and papers of the Commission shall be delivered to the Archivist of the United States for deposit in the National Archives.

SEC. 308. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF FUNDS.

For each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019, the Attorney General may use, from any unobligated balances made available under the heading “GENERAL ADMINISTRATION” to the Department of Justice in an appropriations Act, such amounts as are necessary, not to exceed \$7,000,000 per fiscal year and not to exceed \$14,000,000 total for both fiscal years, to carry out this title, except that none of the funds authorized to be used to carry out this title may be used for international travel.

SEC. 309. SUNSET.

The Commission shall terminate 60 days after the Commission submits the report required under section 305(c) to Congress.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—CONGRATULATING THE MINNESOTA LYNX WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2017 WOMEN’S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 294

Whereas on October 4, 2017, the Minnesota Lynx won the 2017 Women’s National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the “WNBA”) championship;

Whereas this is the fourth national championship that the Minnesota Lynx have won in 7 years;

Whereas the Minnesota Lynx beat the Los Angeles Sparks in game 5 of the WNBA Conference Finals and bested the Washington Mystics in the semifinals;

Whereas the Minnesota Lynx finished the regular season with the best record, 27–7, and earned the top seed;

Whereas the 2017 WNBA Finals made ESPN history by becoming the third-most viewed championship series, averaging 559,000 viewers for the 5-game series;

Whereas attendance for this postseason rose to a high of 9,596 spectators per game, making it the highest-attended WNBA Finals in 7 years, and attracting 10 percent more spectators as compared to last season;

Whereas 14,632 fans attended the sold-out championship game at Williams Arena, known as “The Barn,” in Minneapolis to cheer on the Minnesota Lynx;

Whereas the Minnesota Lynx benefit from the stellar coaching leadership of Head Coach Cheryl Reeve and Assistant Coaches Shelley Patterson, James Wade, and Walt Hopkins;

Whereas the Minnesota Lynx feature 4 world champion and gold medal athletes, including Lindsay Whalen, Maya Moore, Seimone Augustus, and Sylvia Fowles, as well as highly talented professional athletes, including Rebekkah Brunson, Renee Montgomery, Temi Fagbenle, Natasha Howard, Alexis Jones, Jia Perkins, Plenette Pierson, and Cecilia Zandalasini;

Whereas Sylvia Fowles received the 2017 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player award;

Whereas Rebekkah Brunson is the first WNBA player to win 5 championships; and

Whereas the Minnesota Lynx join the Houston Comets as the only team to win 4 championships, all under the coaching of Head Coach Cheryl Reeve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, fans, and staff whose dedication has helped the Minnesota Lynx win the 2017 Women’s National Basketball Association championship; and

(2) recognizes the Twin Cities area and State of Minnesota for the enthusiastic support of women’s professional basketball.

SENATE RESOLUTION 295—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2017 AS “NATIONAL EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP MONTH”

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 295

Whereas employee-owned companies give workers a voice in corporate governance, and that voice helps the long-term well-being of the company;

Whereas employee-owned companies often outperform non-employee-owned companies and show greater resiliency during challenging economic conditions;

Whereas employee-owned companies face lower staff turnover, and workers experience greater job security at those companies;

Whereas employee-owners feel better prepared to cover the expenses of life and retire with a greater sense of financial security; and

Whereas employee-owned companies have a rich history in communities across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2017 as “National Employee Ownership Month”;

(2) supports employee-owned businesses; and

(3) acknowledges that employee-owned companies have a positive impact on workers, businesses, and communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 296—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5 THROUGH 12, 2017, AS “NATIONAL CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING AWARENESS WEEK”

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

S. RES. 296

Whereas carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is produced whenever any fuel, such as natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal, is burned;

Whereas devices that produce carbon monoxide include cars, boats, portable power generators, gasoline engines, stoves, and heating systems, and carbon monoxide produced from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces;

Whereas carbon monoxide is often referred to as the “silent killer” because it is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-irritating, and ignoring early stages of carbon monoxide poisoning may cause unconsciousness and continual exposure to danger;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year in the United States, carbon monoxide poisoning kills more than 150 individuals and sends approximately 20,000 individuals to emergency rooms;

Whereas when people breathe in carbon monoxide, the poisonous gas enters the bloodstream and prevents adequate intake of oxygen, which can damage tissues and result in death;

Whereas, given their common preexisting medical conditions, individuals older than age 65 are particularly vulnerable to carbon monoxide poisoning;

Whereas for most individuals who suffer from carbon monoxide poisoning, the early signs of exposure to low concentrations of carbon monoxide include mild headaches and breathlessness upon moderate exercise;

Whereas sustained or increased exposure to carbon monoxide can lead to flu-like symptoms, including severe headaches, dizziness, tiredness, nausea, confusion, irritability, and impaired judgment, memory, and coordination;

Whereas breathing in low concentrations of carbon monoxide can cause long-term health damage, even after exposure to the gas ends;

Whereas most cases of carbon monoxide exposure occur during the colder months of December, January, and February, when oil and gas heaters are more heavily in use;

Whereas on January 5, 1996, the Burt family of Kimball, Minnesota, was poisoned by carbon monoxide from a malfunctioning furnace in the home of the Burt family, resulting in—

(1) the deaths of 15-month-old Zachary Todd Burt and 4-year-old Nicholas Todd Burt; and

(2) the hospitalization of Ryan Todd Burt;

Whereas Cheryl Burt, the mother of Zachary, Nicholas, and Ryan Burt, has worked to educate the public about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning, including by testifying in December 2009 before the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

Whereas according to the North Dakota Department of Health, among residents over the age of 65, carbon monoxide poisoning was the leading substance-related cause of death in North Dakota from 2009 to 2014;

Whereas the North Dakota Department of Health found that, in 2010, carbon monoxide poisoning was the second-leading cause of unintentional poisoning death among adults ages 30 through 49;

Whereas on June 7, 2015, 3 adults and 1 child in Blanchard, North Dakota, tragically passed away from carbon monoxide poisoning as the result of a carbon monoxide leak caused by an improperly vented water heater; and

Whereas increasing awareness about the dangers of carbon monoxide can help prevent poisoning and save lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of November 5 through 12, 2017, as “National Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Week”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 297—SUPPORTING LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 26, 2017

Mr. FRANKEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 297

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including experiences that encourage science, technology, engineering, and math, that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning opportunities provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating schools with the larger community; and

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities programs, held on October 26, 2017, highlights the critical importance of those high-quality programs to children and the families and communities of those children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights on Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 26, 2017.

SENATE RESOLUTION 298—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2017 AS “NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH”

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

S. RES. 298

Whereas September has been declared “National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month”;

Whereas the theme for National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in 2017 is “Join the Voices for Recovery: Strengthen Families and Communities”;

Whereas drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the United States, with more than 63,000 lethal drug overdoses in 2016 or approximately 170 lethal drug overdoses per day in 2016;

Whereas drug overdose is now the leading cause of death in individuals in the United States under age 50; and

Whereas the motto of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month is “Prevention Works—Treatment is Effective—People Recover”;

Resolved, That the Senate joins the voices for recovery to strengthen families and communities by—

(1) recognizing the importance of education and prevention of substance use disorder and the critical importance and effectiveness of treatment for substance use disorder;

(2) recognizing the possibility of recovery from substance use disorder in this and every month; and

(3) honoring and celebrating—
(A) the achievements of the more than 25,000,000 people of the United States who are in recovery from substance use disorder; and
(B) the tens of millions of recovery allies who support those people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 299—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 20, 2017, AS THE “NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING”

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 299

Whereas people in the 21st century are writing more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes;

Whereas the social nature of writing invites people of every age, profession, and walk of life to create meaning through composing;

Whereas more and more people in every occupation consider writing to be essential and influential in their work;

Whereas individuals who write continue to learn how to write for different purposes, audiences, and occasions throughout their lifetimes;

Whereas developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media at a faster pace than ever before;

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools, including print, audio, and video, to social media, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and Internet website tools, including blogs, wikis, and podcasts;

Whereas the National Day on Writing encourages all people of the United States and overseas to write, enjoy, and learn from the writing of others;

Whereas, since the inception of the hashtag #WhyIWrite in 2009, the hashtag has generated hundreds of thousands of tweets and reached millions of people, encouraging students, from elementary school through the university level, athletes, authors, and artists from all over the world to participate;

Whereas, since October 2016, the #WhyIWrite podcast has brought the voices of prominent authors of all genres and mediums into the conversation around the power of the written word; and

Whereas, on the National Day of Writing in 2017, the National Council of Teachers of English encourages all people of the United States to tell others #WhyIWrite through print, social media, or other means: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 20, 2017, as the “National Day on Writing”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of the National Day on Writing; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and other organizations to celebrate and promote the National Day on Writing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 300—RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MCDANIEL COLLEGE

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 300

Whereas, on October 21, 2017, McDaniel College, formerly Western Maryland College (referred to in this preamble as the “College”), located in Westminster, Maryland, will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first academic year of the College;

Whereas the College was the first coeducational college founded south of the Mason-Dixon line and one of the first coeducational colleges in the United States;

Whereas the founder of the College, Fayette Buell, a Westminster teacher, purchased approximately 8 acres of land shortly after the Civil War in 1866 to build the College;

Whereas the College was named Western Maryland College at the suggestion of John Smith, President of Western Maryland Railroad;