

My utmost respect goes out to these women warriors who selflessly answered the call to duty and served with honor, courage, and distinction.

As a United States Senator proudly representing California, I have seen first-hand some of the millions of outstanding women who achieve greatness.

As we celebrate the stories of American women who defied all odds to accomplish the unprecedented, we must also honor their legacies by continuing to defend the rights they worked so hard to achieve.

We have fought together on so many issues that affect women, families, and all Americans. During this month, I invite all women to pledge to continue this fight together and never relent on these important issues.

Thank you Mr. President and I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2018 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 449

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas while the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2018 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—RE-AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES-EGYPT PARTNERSHIP AND THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO FREE, FAIR, CREDIBLE, AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 26, 2018

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

S. RES. 450

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Egypt have long-shared a strong bilateral working relationship;

Whereas respect for democracy, human rights, and civil liberties are fundamental principles of the United States and critical to our national security objectives;

Whereas the Government and people of Egypt have played a critical role in global and regional politics;

Whereas a strong United States-Egypt partnership is important for the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Middle East;

Whereas the people and Government of the United States have a deep and abiding interest in Egypt's prosperity, political progress, and long-term stability;

Whereas an inclusive government responsive to the needs of all of its citizens, including religious minorities, is vital for such stability and prosperity;

Whereas international and public confidence in any electoral process is an essential element for advancing inclusive, representative forms of government;

Whereas Egypt will hold a presidential election on March 26, 2018;

Whereas the Department of State's 2016 Human Rights Report noted that the 2015 parliamentary election raised “concern[s] about restrictions on freedoms of peaceful assembly, association, and expression and their negative effect on the political climate surrounding elections”;

Whereas the same report notes that the 2014 presidential election raised “serious concerns regarding constraints on the freedoms of expression and association and limits on freedom of the press leading up to the election which prevented free political participation and severely compromised the broader electoral environment”;

Whereas the Government of Egypt, through legal action and a highly restrictive new law, has created a hostile environment for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), which provide essential services to the people of Egypt and for whom peaceful associa-

tion for civic activities is a fundamental right;

Whereas the United States Government reprogrammed and withheld some assistance to Egypt in August 2017 due in part to the inability to certify, as required by Congress, “that Egypt is advancing democracy and human rights”;

Whereas the Department of State, in an August 23, 2017, press briefing, reported that it was “unable to certify that Egypt is advancing democracy and human rights”;

Whereas, in January 2018, Department of State Spokesperson Heather Nauert affirmed that the United States supports “free and fair elections” in Egypt and said, “We support a timely and credible electoral process and believe it needs to include the opportunity for citizens to participate freely in Egyptian elections. We believe that that should include addressing restrictions on freedom of association, peaceful assembly, and also expression.”;

Whereas Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited Egypt on February 12, 2018, and stated during a joint press availability with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, “With the presidential elections planned for the end of March, the United States, as it does in all countries, supports a transparent and credible electoral process, and all citizens being given the right and the opportunity to participate freely and fairly.”;

Whereas President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, in a televised interview on September 16, 2016, with CBS Evening News, said, “We uphold the principles of respecting people, of honoring their rights.”;

Whereas President el-Sisi has asserted his commitment to term limits and free and fair elections over the years, stating in a CNBC interview on November 6, 2017, “There is no president who will sit in the chair without the will of the Egyptian people. . . the one that is in the president's seat will not be able to stay after the term allowed by the law and the constitution. And what determines this will be the vote of the Egyptian people.”;

Whereas all credible opposition candidates in Egypt's 2018 presidential election faced pressure, harassment, or arrest and subsequently withdrew their candidacies;

Whereas several prominent Egyptian opposition politicians released a statement on January 28, 2018, calling for Egyptians “to boycott these elections. . . not only for the absence of the idea of electoral competition, but also because [it] is an obvious first step toward changing the Constitution, removing the limit on presidential terms and eliminating all chances of a peaceful transfer of power”;

Whereas, in the same statement, these political figures went on to note that “the security and administrative practices taken by the current system [are intended] to prevent any fair competition in the upcoming elections. . . spreading a climate of security fear, media bias. . . and then with a tight schedule that does not provide a real opportunity for competitors to put themselves and their programs forward”;

Whereas the only current opposition candidate, Mr. Moussa Mostafa Moussa, is from the Al-Ghad party, which has no seats in parliament, and only a few days before declaring his candidacy led a campaign called “We Support” calling for el-Sisi's reelection: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reasserts its commitment to the United States-Egypt partnership and to advancing the common interests of both countries;

(2) recognizes that Egypt faces legitimate security threats and expresses condolences for the loss of life suffered by the Egyptian

people in attacks by violent extremist organizations;

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to democracy, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law, including the universal rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association;

(4) expresses support for human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law in Egypt, and for elections that are free, fair, and credible;

(5) notes that a lack of progress in these areas will undermine Egypt's security and economic stabilization;

(6) supports the people of Egypt, who are entitled to determine their own destiny, including selecting their political leadership through a fair and credible electoral process without fear of or intimidation by their government;

(7) urges the Government of Egypt to take meaningful steps to enable free, fair, credible, and peaceful elections in March 2018 and in the future;

(8) expresses concern regarding the intimidation and detention of credible opposition candidates, as well as the restrictive environment for nongovernmental organizations and media;

(9) calls on the United States Government, foreign governments, and parliaments to speak out in support of the right of the Egyptian people to free, fair, and credible elections; and

(10) encourages the President to appoint an Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs and a United States Ambassador to Egypt to bolster diplomatic engagement with the Government of Egypt, electoral stakeholders, and civil society as well as consistently raise issues of human rights, rule of law, and governance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 451—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ENDOMETRIOSIS AS AN UNMET CHRONIC DISEASE FOR WOMEN AND DESIGNATING MARCH 2018 AS “ENDOMETRIOSIS AWARENESS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 451

Whereas 6,500,000 women in the United States are living with endometriosis;

Whereas endometriosis is a chronic disease affecting 176,000,000 women throughout the world and an estimated 1 in 10 women in the United States ages 18 through 49;

Whereas medical societies and patient groups including the Endometriosis Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the American Social Health Association all have expressed the need for greater public attention and updated resources targeted to public education about this unmet health need for women;

Whereas endometriosis occurs when tissue similar to that normally found in the uterus begins to grow outside the uterus;

Whereas, while endometriosis is one of the most common gynecological disorders in the United States, there is a lack of awareness and prioritization of endometriosis as an important health issue for women;

Whereas women can suffer up to 6 to 10 years before properly diagnosed;

Whereas approximately ⅓ to ½ of all women with endometriosis will have difficulty getting pregnant;

Whereas endometriosis is a painful and debilitating disorder;

Whereas endometriosis is associated with increased health care costs and poses a substantial burden to patients in the healthcare system;

Whereas the total annual direct health care cost of symptoms associated with endometriosis is \$56,000,000,000, or nearly \$11,000 per patient;

Whereas 51 percent of endometriosis patients report that the disease detrimentally affects their performance of their job;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the average number of “bed days” for patients with endometriosis was 18 days per year;

Whereas women with endometriosis can lose 11 hours per work week through lost productivity;

Whereas, in 2010, endometriosis patients were hospitalized over 100,000 days because of this disease;

Whereas there is a need for more research and updated guidelines to treat endometriosis;

Whereas the research dollars from the National Institutes of Health dedicated to endometriosis has dropped from \$16,000,000 in 2010 to \$7,000,000 in 2018;

Whereas there is an ongoing need for additional clinical research and treatment options to manage this debilitating disease; and

Whereas there is no known cure for endometriosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2018 as “Endometriosis Awareness Month”;

(2) recognizes the importance of endometriosis as a health issue for women that requires far greater attention, public awareness, and education about the disease;

(3) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

(A) to provide information to women, patients, and health care providers with respect to endometriosis, including available screening tools and treatment options, with a goal of improving the quality of life and health outcomes of women affected by endometriosis;

(B) to conduct additional research on endometriosis and possible clinical options; and

(C) to update information, tools, and studies currently available with respect to helping women live with endometriosis; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2215. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4851, to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes.

SA 2216. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1625, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to include severe forms of trafficking in persons within the definition of transnational organized crime for purposes of the rewards program of the Department of State, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2217. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1625, supra.

SA 2218. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2217 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1625, supra.

SA 2219. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1625, supra.

SA 2220. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2219 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1625, supra.

SA 2221. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2220 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 2219 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 1625, supra.

SA 2222. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1625, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2223. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HOEVEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 607, to establish a business incubators program within the Department of the Interior to promote economic development in Indian reservation communities.

SA 2224. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HOEVEN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1116, to amend the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide industry and economic development opportunities to Indian communities.

SA 2225. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LANKFORD) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 943, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an accurate comprehensive student count for the purposes of calculating formula allocations for programs under the Johnson-O'Malley Act, and for other purposes.

SA 2226. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. RISCH) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 116, Official Title Not Available.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2215. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4851, to establish the Kennedy-King National Historic Site in the State of Indiana, and for other purposes; as follows:

In section 3, strike subsection (d).

SA 2216. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1625, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to include severe forms of trafficking in persons within the definition of transnational organized crime for purposes of the rewards program of the Department of State, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In division H, after section 229, insert the following:

SEC. 230. WAIVERS FOR STATE INNOVATION; COST-SHARING PAYMENTS.

(a) WAIVERS FOR STATE INNOVATION.—

(1) STREAMLINING THE STATE APPLICATION PROCESS.—Section 1332 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18052) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(C), by striking “the law” and inserting “a law or has in effect a certification”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “OR CERTIFY” after “LAW”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “A law” and inserting the following: