

Whereas gun violence typically escalates during the summer months;

Whereas nearly 2,700 children and teens are killed by gun violence every year, including Hadiya Pendleton, who, in 2013, was killed at 15 years of age while standing in a Chicago park; and

Whereas, during the weekend of June 1 through June 3, 2018, the weekend in which Hadiya Pendleton would have had her 21st birthday, people across the United States will recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend and wear orange in tribute to Hadiya and other victims of gun violence and the loved ones of those victims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of June 2018 as “National Gun Violence Awareness Month” and the goals and ideals of that month; and

(B) the designation of June 1 through June 3, 2018 as “National Gun Violence Awareness Weekend” in remembrance of the victims of gun violence; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to—

(A) promote greater awareness of gun violence and gun safety;

(B) wear orange, the color that hunters wear to show that they are not targets, during the weekend of June 1 through June 3, 2018;

(C) concentrate heightened attention on gun violence during the summer months, when gun violence typically increases; and

(D) bring community members and leaders together to discuss ways to make communities safer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS NATIONAL DEMOCRACY MONTH AS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE FREE AND STABLE WORLD

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 525

Whereas, 2,000 years after the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for democracy, the founders of the United States built an even greater system of government, a democratic republic, propelling the United States to become the most advanced nation in human history;

Whereas the model of government of the United States has been reproduced around the world;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, despite the expansion of democracy worldwide, today more than 1 in 3 people in the world do not live in states considered free;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, with the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, including the 14th and 15th Amendments, and the 19th Amendment, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;

Whereas the perpetuation of the ideals of democracy does not happen on its own, and can be stalled or reversed;

Whereas surveys show that citizens of the United States are losing faith in the democratic system;

Whereas, according to a study published in the *Journal of Democracy*—

(1) 91 percent of young people in the United States in the 1930s thought it “essential” to live in a democracy;

(2) only 30 percent of young people in the United States in 2018 think that it is “essential” to live in a democracy; and

(3) 24 percent of young people in the United States in 2018 think that democracy is a “bad” or “very bad” way of running the country;

Whereas Freedom House concluded that “Democracy as the world’s dominant form of government is under greater threat than at any point in the last 25 years”;

Whereas former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor said “The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens”;

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said “Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to effort, to sacrifice, and a willingness to live and to die in its defense”;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said “Democracy is worth dying for, because it’s the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man”;

Whereas World War II demonstrated the fragility of democracy and its accompanying civilized life;

Whereas British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed that “Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have ever been tried”;

Whereas President George Washington said the United States must recognize the immense value of the national Union and work towards its preservation with “jealous anxiety” and wrote that the security of a free Constitution may be accomplished by “teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights”;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson wrote “Educate and inform the whole mass of the people . . . They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty”;

Whereas evidence of the diminution of strong support for democratic principles in recent years among citizens of the United States suggests the government of the United States must once more teach and educate the people by taking appropriate actions to highlight and emphasize the importance of democratic principles and their essential role in our freedoms and way of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2018 as “National Democracy Month”;

(2) encourages States and local governments to designate September 2018 as “National Democracy Month”;

(3) recognizes the celebration of “National Democracy Month” as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe “National Democracy Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide appreciation for the system of government of the United States; and

(B) demonstrate that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices made by past generations of people of the United States to preserve the freedoms and principles of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 526—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT POLITICIANS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH A WOMAN’S PERSONAL HEALTH CARE DECISIONS OR ATTEMPT TO PREVENT PROVIDERS FROM OFFERING THEIR FULL MEDICAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEIR PATIENTS

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 526

Whereas, since the enactment of title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “title X family planning program”) nearly half a century ago, the title X family planning program has provided family planning and related preventive health care services to those most in need and has enjoyed broad bipartisan support;

Whereas the title X family planning program was created to assist in making comprehensive voluntary family planning services readily available to all individuals desiring those services and to enable public and nonprofit private entities to plan and develop comprehensive programs that provide those family planning services;

Whereas the title X family planning program serves 4,000,000 individuals each year, many of whom would otherwise be unable to access the types of health care services supported under the title X family planning program;

Whereas the title X family planning program helps ensure that every individual, regardless of where the individual lives, how much money the individual earns, the background of the individual, or whether or not the individual has health insurance, has access to basic, preventive reproductive health care, such as birth control, cancer screenings, sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment, and well-woman exams;

Whereas the title X family planning program serves a racially and ethnically diverse patient base, not less than 1/3 of patients served under the title X family planning program are people of color, and 13 percent of patients served under the title X family planning program have limited proficiency in English;

Whereas, for decades, individuals receiving services supported under the title X family planning program have been given the full range of information needed to make fully informed decisions about their own pregnancy options, including access to safe and legal abortion;

Whereas efforts to stigmatize abortion care and providers of abortion care undermine the ability of patients to make fully informed health care decisions;

Whereas the Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association states that health care providers should “[p]resent relevant information accurately and sensitively, in keeping with the patient’s preferences” and that “withholding information without the patient’s knowledge or consent is ethically unacceptable”;

Whereas the 1982 report of the President’s Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and in Biomedical and Behavioral Research stated that, “a physician is obliged to mention all alternative treatments, including those he or she does not provide or favor, so long as they are supported by respectable medical opinion”;

Whereas any policy that denies a patient seeking care from a health care provider receiving support under the title X family planning program full and accurate information on and referral for health care services, including abortion care, violates basic medical ethics by forcing the health care provider to withhold health care information from the patient and by denying the basic right of the patient to informed consent;

Whereas health care providers receiving support under the title X family planning program must not be subject to any limitation on providing full and accurate information so that those health care providers may communicate freely with patients and exercise their medical judgment in order to provide the safest and most beneficial medical treatment for each patient; and

Whereas any policy that seeks to prevent health care providers receiving support under the title X family planning program from providing full and accurate information and referral for health care services threatens patient health, discourages honest conversation, and undermines the vital relationship between health care providers and patients, who rely on their health care providers for complete and accurate information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to recognize that the health of a patient should always come first and patients must be able to rely on their health care providers for medically accurate and evidence-based information about the full range of health care options, including information about access to safe and legal abortion;

(2) to urge the development and maintenance of trust between patients and health care providers by protecting the ability of health care providers to give complete medical advice and information in order to ensure no harm to patient health;

(3) to encourage efforts to enhance patient quality of care and access to confidential and safe care for all patients;

(4) to support efforts to promote the health care safety net;

(5) to recognize that any nationwide gag rule prohibiting information flow between patients and health care providers represents a radical departure from how health care has operated in the United States and fundamentally erodes the right of patients to informed consent and the ability of health care providers to provide appropriate and adequate health care and information; and

(6) to oppose efforts seeking to limit access to, and full information on, reproductive health care options in contradiction with the congressional intent underlying title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 527—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AS A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND REAFFIRMING THE STRENGTH OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GEORGIA

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 527

Whereas, in 1918, the people of Georgia established the Democratic Republic of Georgia;

Whereas Georgia was illegally invaded and annexed by the Soviet Red Army in 1921, leading to 70 years of Soviet occupation until 1991, when Georgia regained its independence;

Whereas the territorial integrity of Georgia has been continually reaffirmed by the international community, international law, and over 30 United Nations Security Council resolutions since 1993;

Whereas the Russian Federation's invasion of Georgia in August 2008 resulted in civilian and military casualties, the occupation of two Georgian regions, Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, and the violation of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of internally displaced civilians were forcefully expelled from the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia of Georgia in the 1990s, and again in 2008, and continue to be deprived of the right to return in a safe and dignified manner;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to violate the European Union-mediated, August 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has intensified steps to separate Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia from the rest of Georgia by continuing its fortification of the occupation lines and constructing barbed wire fences to further divide the population;

Whereas Georgia remains in full compliance with the European Union-mediated, August 12, 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, and continues its efforts to reach tangible results in the Geneva International Discussions;

Whereas the human rights situation in the Russian-occupied Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia has deteriorated, and the Parliament of Georgia adopted a resolution on March 21, 2018, in recognition of this fact;

Whereas the United States Government supports Georgia's sovereignty and right to choose its own alliances, and recognizes the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia as Russian Federation-occupied territories within the internationally recognized borders of Georgia;

Whereas the United States-Georgia Strategic Partnership, signed in January 2009, outlines the importance of bilateral efforts to advance cooperation in the areas of education, public outreach, health, and cultural exchanges to ensure the strong and enduring people-to-people ties between the United States and Georgia;

Whereas the Memorandum on Deepening the Defense and Security Partnership between the United States and Georgia, signed in July 2016, enhances the defense and security cooperation and reinforces our shared determination to strengthen Georgia's resilience and self-defense capabilities;

Whereas relations between the United States and Georgia have developed into a strong alliance based on shared values and principles;

Whereas, since 1994, the Georgia National Guard has had a partnership with the country of Georgia through the National Guard State Partnership Program, helping build capacity among partner forces and providing deterrence against the aggression of the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has shown an unwavering commitment to strengthening transatlantic security by being the largest non-NATO troop contributor to the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan and one of the top overall contributors to Resolute Support;

Whereas the Government of Georgia has been a leader of the region in democratic development and has initiated positive commitments in the areas of judicial reforms, strengthening the role of Parliament, and utilizing international election monitoring organizations and transparency;

Whereas, on August 1, 2017, Vice President Mike Pence visited Georgia to condemn the Russian Federation's occupation of Georgian territory and attend Exercise Noble Partner, involving 800 Georgian and 1,600 United States troops;

Whereas, on November 20, 2017, the Department of State made a determination approving a sale of the Javelin missile system to Georgia, providing increased capacity to meet Georgia's national defense requirements;

Whereas, on January 26, 2018, the United States Government condemned the Russian Federation's ratification of an agreement with de facto leaders of South Ossetia regarding a joint military force; and

Whereas a democratic and stable Georgia is in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Georgia on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first Democratic Republic of Georgia;

(2) acknowledges the close and enduring strategic partnership and strong alliance between the United States and Georgia;

(3) supports strengthening the defense and security cooperation between the United States and Georgia;

(4) supports further developing trade and commerce relations between the United States and Georgia;

(5) reaffirms the support of the United States for Georgia's accession to NATO;

(6) continues to condemn the Russian Federation's occupation of Georgian sovereign territory, and recognizes Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia as Russian-occupied territories within the internationally recognized borders of Georgia;

(7) remembers the victims of the August 2008 war between Georgia and the Russian Federation;

(8) condemns human rights abuses by the Government of the Russian Federation in the occupied Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, including the recent killing of Georgian citizens Archil Tatumashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, and Davit Basharuli;

(9) reaffirms the support of the United States for a peaceful, unified Georgia and a secure future for the region;

(10) reaffirms the necessity of the implementation of the August, 12, 2008, Ceasefire Agreement that stipulates the withdrawal of Russian Federation forces to their pre-conflict locations and establishes international security mechanisms on the ground;

(11) emphasizes the importance of ensuring the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons; and

(12) recognizes the Government of Georgia's ongoing efforts to strengthen democracy in Georgia by implementing reforms that expand media transparency and freedoms, increase government transparency, accountability, and responsiveness, promote political competition and democratic electoral processes, and strengthen judicial independence and the rule of law.