

DURBIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3610 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3611

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3611 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3612

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3612 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3641

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3641 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3670

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3670 proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3676

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3676 proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 3308. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President. As the skills students need to be successful in the 21st century evolve, so too must the type of instruction they receive. Educators must provide educational opportunities that teach to the challenging State academic standards that meet the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. At the start of every school year we see the same news headlines about exploding class sizes and districts facing unfillable openings. Teacher and principal shortages plague the whole country, and are worst in our rural communities, but it's a problem we can solve.

In 2015-16, more than half of U.S. States reported shortages of educators in mathematics, science, career and technical education and for English learners. Further, 48 States identified special education as a shortage area in their reports to the U.S. Department of Education and half of all schools and 90% of high-poverty schools are struggling to find qualified special education teachers. If current trends continue, we would see as few as 200,000 available teacher hires each year by 2025, resulting in a gap of more than 100,000 teachers annually.

Additionally, in public schools today, the majority of the student population is comprised of students of color; however, teachers of color only comprised 20% of the teacher workforce in 2015-16. African American teachers made up more than 8% of teachers in 1987, but only made up 6.7% in 2015. It is critical for our teaching workforce to grow more reflective of the population of students it serves.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today the Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals Act, or PREP Act. The PREP Act aims to increase access to high-quality teacher and leader preparation, diversify the teacher workforce, and address the significant national teacher and school shortages. More specifically, this legislation would expand the definition of "high need" districts under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to include those experiencing teacher shortages in rural communities and in areas such as special education, English language, science, technology, engineering, math, and CTE, to allow for access to additional support and improvement. It would also encourage school districts to create partnerships with local community colleges and universities to ensure their programs are educating future teachers in areas where there is a shortage of educators. It would increase access to teacher and school leader residency programs and prepara-

tion training and require States to identify areas of teacher or leader shortages by subject across public schools and use that data to target their efforts. Additionally, the PREP Act increases support for teacher preparation programs at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) or Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to support a diverse and well-prepared educator workforce.

The improvement of our country's educational system lies in our ability to prepare, support, and retain quality educators. When teachers and school leaders are equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed, they are more likely to stay in their roles and positively impact young people and their communities. As we move towards the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle see the PREP Act as a commonsense opportunity to help ensure that students in every zip code across the country have access to well-prepared teachers and school leaders they deserve.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—RECOGNIZING JULY 28, 2018, AS "WORLD HEPATITIS DAY"

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 600

Whereas hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and the incidence of liver disease caused by such viruses have become urgent problems of a global proportion;

Whereas, worldwide, an estimated—

(1) 1,340,000 people die each year due to hepatitis;

(2) 257,000,000 people live with chronic hepatitis B;

(3) 887,000 people die each year mostly due to a liver-related illness caused by hepatitis B;

(4) 71,000,000 people are chronically infected with hepatitis C; and

(5) 399,000 people die each year due to a liver-related illness caused by hepatitis C;

Whereas, in the United States, an estimated—

(1) 5,700,000 people are infected with hepatitis B or hepatitis C;

(2) 2,200,000 people are chronically infected with hepatitis B; and

(3) 3,500,000 people are chronically infected with hepatitis C;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the "CDC") estimates that, in 2016, there were 20,900 new acute hepatitis B infections and 41,200 new acute hepatitis C infections in the United States;

Whereas the CDC has found significant increases in the amount of new hepatitis cases in the United States since 2010, including a 3.5-fold increase between 2010 and 2016 in reported cases of acute hepatitis C infections;

Whereas chronic viral hepatitis claims thousands of lives each year in the United States, with an estimated 18,153 deaths due to hepatitis C in 2016;

Whereas, between 2015 and 2020, there is estimated to be \$136,000,000,000 in hepatitis C