

reporting on the Myanmar military's campaign against the Rohingya, and Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were doing fact-checking and interviewing eyewitnesses to these and other events;

Whereas, on December 12, 2017, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo were arrested by police and later charged with illegally possessing secret government documents under the colonial era Official Secrets Act;

Whereas Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been in custody from December 12, 2017, to the present, including before, during, and after their trial;

Whereas, one of the key prosecution witnesses in the trial, Police Captain Moe Yan Naing, said in open court on April 20, 2018, that he and others were ordered by the Myanmar police chief to "trap" Wa Lone by inviting the journalist to meet them at a restaurant and to give him "secret documents"—a meeting that Wa Lone attended in the company of his colleague, Kyaw Soe Oo, which led to the immediate arrest of the two journalists;

Whereas Police Captain Moe Yan Naing was subsequently sentenced to one year in jail for violating police discipline;

Whereas, on September 3, 2018, Yangon northern district judge Ye Lwin ruled that Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo breached the colonial-era Official Secrets Act and sentenced them each to seven years in prison with hard labor;

Whereas 83 Myanmar civil society organizations have signed a statement condemning the verdict;

Whereas the people of Myanmar, with assistance from the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, have successfully grown their cadre of ethical and hard hitting journalists, journalists who are adhering to the utmost professional standards and able to uncover the abuses being committed in their own country, and these journalists deserve the international community's support and praise for taking on the risky job of fostering press freedom in their country, however nascent it is;

Whereas United States Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green released a statement calling the convictions "an enormous setback for democracy and the rule of law in Burma" and "urge[d] the Government of Burma to protect journalists and press freedom, which are the bedrocks of democracy and peace";

Whereas Vice President Mike Pence tweeted his concern over the sentence against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo for "doing their job reporting on the atrocities being committed on the Rohingya people";

Whereas United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley described the conviction as "another terrible stain on the Burmese government" and called for "their immediate and unconditional release";

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability and transparency and therefore promotes adherence to the rule of law and enforcement of universally recognized human rights by all people; and

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance and activism in civil society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls for all the convictions against Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo to be nullified, for the similar changes against many other journalists currently awaiting trial to be dropped, and for the immediate and unconditional release of these journalists;

(2) expresses concern about the Government of Myanmar's crackdown on journalists and press freedom throughout the country;

(3) reaffirms the central role that independent and professional journalism plays in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world;

(4) urges the Secretary of State to make a determination whether the actions by the Myanmar military constitute crimes against humanity or genocide and to work with interagency partners to impose targeted sanctions on Myanmar military officials responsible for these heinous acts through existing authorities; and

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

(A) to reaffirm the importance of a free press in strengthening democratic governance, upholding the rule of law, mitigating conflict, and informing public opinion around the world; and

(B) to engage immediately and at the highest levels with the Government of Myanmar, including by encouraging Aung San Suu Kyi to use her influence to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, as United States leadership is critical to this issue.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 636—RECOGNIZING SUICIDE AS A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER AS "NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH"**

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 636

Whereas suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the "CDC"), 1 person dies by suicide every 12.3 minutes, resulting in nearly 45,000 deaths each year in the United States;

Whereas, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 members of the Armed Forces on active duty, members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are not on active duty, or veterans die by suicide each day, resulting in more than 7,000 deaths each year;

Whereas the suicide rate in the United States has steadily increased every year from 1999 through 2016;

Whereas it is estimated that there are more than 1,100,000 suicide attempts each year in the United States;

Whereas more than half of individuals who die by suicide did not have a known mental health condition;

Whereas, according to the CDC, many factors contribute to suicide among individuals with and without known mental health conditions, including challenges related to relationships, substance abuse, physical health, and stress regarding work, money, legal problems, or housing;

Whereas, according to the CDC, suicide results in an estimated \$44,600,000,000 in combined medical and work-loss costs in the United States each year;

Whereas the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality hinders suicide prevention by discouraging at-risk individuals from seeking life-saving help and

further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and people with lived experience of suicide; and

Whereas September is an appropriate month to designate as "National Suicide Prevention Month" because September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day, a day recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes suicide as a serious and preventable national and State public health problem;

(2) supports the designation of September as "National Suicide Prevention Month";

(3) declares suicide prevention as a priority;

(4) acknowledges that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities;

(5) promotes awareness that there is no single cause of suicide; and

(6) supports strategies to increase access to high-quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 637—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS "NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH"**

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. DAINES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. JONES, Mr. BROWN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 637

Whereas, in September 2018, "National Kinship Care Month" is observed;

Whereas, nationally, 2,700,000 children are living in kinship care with grandparents or other relatives;

Whereas, nationally, 140,000 children in foster care are placed with grandparents or other relatives, with more than 2,560,000 kinship children supported outside of the foster care system;

Whereas the percentage of kinship foster children has increased more than 11 percent since 2006;

Whereas the number of non-relative foster parents continues to decrease and child welfare agencies are increasingly reliant on kinship families;

Whereas children in kinship care experience improved placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavioral problems;

Whereas kinship caregivers provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable households for vulnerable children;

Whereas grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural, and suburban households in every State and territory of the United States have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for children during times in which parents are unable to do so;

Whereas many kinship caregivers give up their retirement years to assume parenting duties for children;

Whereas grandparents and other relatives are increasingly providing caring homes for children because of the opioid crisis;

Whereas, because of parental substance use disorders and other adverse childhood experiences, children in kinship care frequently have trauma-related conditions;

Whereas kinship care homes offer a refuge for traumatized children;

Whereas kinship care enables a child—

(1) to maintain family relationships and cultural heritage; and

(2) to remain in the community of the child;

Whereas kinship care is a national resource that provides loving homes for children at risk;

Whereas the wisdom and compassion of kinship caregivers is a source of self-reliance and strength for countless children and for the entire United States;

Whereas kinship caregivers face daunting challenges to keep children from entering foster care;

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize the many kinship care families in which a child is raised by grandparents or other relatives;

Whereas the first president of the United States, George Washington, and his wife Martha were themselves kinship caregivers, as were many other great people of the United States;

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the many kinship caregivers, who throughout the history of the United States have provided loving homes for children;

Whereas National Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to urge people in every State to join in recognizing and celebrating kinship caregiving families and the tradition of families in the United States to help kin;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress provided for kinship navigator programs and services in the Family First Prevention Services Act enacted under title VII of division E of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 64) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 348);

Whereas, in 2018, Congress provided for the formation of the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to examine supports for grandparents and other kinship caregivers in the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Act (Public Law 115-196; 132 Stat. 1511); and

Whereas more remains to be done to support kinship caregiving and to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

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

(2) encourages Congress, States, local governments, and community organizations to continue to work to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families and to support the communities working together to lift them up; and

(3) honors the commitment and dedication of kinship caregivers and the advocates and allies who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to kinship caregiving families.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 638—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 22, 2018, AS “NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS**

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 638

Whereas individuals who are 65 years of age or older (referred to in this preamble as “older adults”) are the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States and the number of older adults in the United

States will increase from 49,200,000 in 2016 to 94,700,000 in 2060;

Whereas more than 1 of 4 older adults in the United States falls each year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2016, approximately 3,000,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries;

Whereas, in 2016, more than 29,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls and the death rate from falls of older adults in the United States has risen sharply in the last decade;

Whereas, in 2015, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was \$50,000,000,000;

Whereas, if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost of fall injuries will reach \$100,000,000,000 by 2030; and

Whereas evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2018, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies;

(3) commends the 72 member organizations of the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about preventing falls among older adults;

(4) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to raise awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(5) recognizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its work developing and evaluating interventions for all members of health care teams to make falls prevention a routine part of clinical care;

(6) recognizes the Administration for Community Living for its work to promote access to evidence-based programs and services in communities across the United States;

(7) encourages State health departments and State units on aging, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and related health care costs by collaborating with organizations and individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

(8) encourages experts in the field of falls prevention to share their best practices so that their success can be replicated by others.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 639—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 17, 2018, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK”**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 639

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-

time equivalent undergraduate enrollment comprised of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas 492 Hispanic-Serving Institutions operate in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions represent just 14.9 percent of all nonprofit institutions of higher education, yet serve 24.5 percent of all students and 63 percent of all Hispanic students, enrolling more than 2,075,317 Hispanic students;

Whereas there are operating in 36 States and the District of Columbia 333 emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions, which are institutions that do not meet the threshold of 25 percent Hispanic enrollment but serve a Hispanic student population of between 15 and 24 percent;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 21 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 36 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the institutions are located;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions lead in efforts to increase Hispanic participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the United States and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(2) designates the week beginning September 17, 2018, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”;

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 640—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 25, 2018, AS “NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY”**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 640

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 25, 2018, as “National Voter Registration Day”;

(2) encourages each voting-eligible citizen of the United States—

(A) to register to vote;

(B) to verify with the appropriate State or local election official that the name, address, and other personal information on record is current; and

(C) to go to the polls on election day and vote if the voting-eligible citizen would like to do so.