

S.J. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution marking the fifth anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity by honoring the bravery, determination, and sacrifice of the people of Ukraine during and since the Revolution, and condemning continued Russian aggression against Ukraine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 568. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 and the Head Start Act to promote child care and early learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to express my support for the Child Care for Working Families Act, which I was proud to introduce earlier this afternoon with Senators MURRAY, CASEY, and 30 of our Senate colleagues.

We know that investments in early childhood programs are foundational for future academic and social success. Yet child care remains unaffordable for too many working families in the United States.

For parents worried about how to pay for basic living expenses like housing, food, education, and transportation, increasing child care costs can place a heavy burden on family budgets.

As a young immigrant from Japan who was raised by a single, working

mother, I understand the difficult decisions families have to make every day to survive. I have experienced these challenges firsthand. Yet, all these years later, for many Hawaii families, child care costs exceed all other expenses besides housing.

On average, Hawaii parents can expect to pay \$8,280 per year, or \$690 per month, in child care expenses. These costs are 25 percent higher than they were just a decade ago, but wages have hardly kept pace. As a result, Hawaii families will dedicate around 11 percent of their family budget to child care—exceeding the government's standard for affordable care.

Unfortunately, even for families that can afford child care, finding that needed care may be difficult. This is because our early childhood educators and child care workers are overworked and underpaid. In addition, there is a severe need for more facilities to accommodate the families that need them. The need is great, and that is why the Child Care for Working Families Act is so important. This legislation will make sure working families have access to high-quality, affordable early childhood programs.

Specifically, the bill expands the existing Child Care and Development Block Grant program to guarantee that working and middle class families have access to affordable child care—ensuring that these families do not have to pay more than 7 percent of their income toward care, regardless of how many children they have.

The bill also expands Head Start to promote universal preschool for young children.

Additionally, the bill also addresses the need to support our early childhood workers by making sure teachers, care givers, and other workers responsible for our children are fairly-compensated and fully-supported with training and professional development opportunities.

These are the core provisions of the bill, which represents an essential investment in the stability and prosperity of working families in Hawaii and across our Nation. Every family deserves access to high-quality, affordable early childhood programs, and we will continue fighting to make child care more affordable for all children.

I thank my colleagues for their continued support in this effort, and urge support for this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 78—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DEBT AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SASSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 78

Whereas, in February 2019, the total public debt outstanding was more than

\$22,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than \$192,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

Whereas, on December 21, 2018, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was 104 percent;

Whereas the last balanced Federal budget was signed into law in 1997;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2018, Federal tax receipts totaled \$3,329,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled \$4,108,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of \$779,000,000,000;

Whereas, every year since the last balanced Federal budget was signed in 1997, Congress has failed to maintain a fiscally responsible budget and has typically relied on raising the debt ceiling;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2026;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2034;

Whereas the credit rating of the United States was reduced by Standard and Poor's from AAA to AA+ on August 5, 2011, and has remained at that level since that date;

Whereas, without a targeted effort to balance the Federal budget, the credit rating of the United States is certain to continue to fall;

Whereas the National Security Strategy issued by President Donald Trump highlights the need to reduce the national debt through fiscal responsibility;

Whereas, on April 12, 2018, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that "any Nation that can't keep its fiscal house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power";

Whereas, on March 6, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned: "Our continued plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a dire future threat to our economy and to our national security";

Whereas, on November 15, 2017, former Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta, Ash Carter, and Chuck Hagel warned: "Increase in the debt will, in the absence of a comprehensive budget that addresses both entitlements and revenues, force even deeper reductions in our national security capabilities"; and

Whereas, on September 22, 2011, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen warned: "I believe the single, biggest threat to our national security is debt"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the national debt is a threat to the national security of the United States;

(2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous; and

(3) commits to addressing the fiscal crisis faced by the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs.