

of the press, freedom to petition the government, and freedom of religion; and

(9) calls on the international community to cooperate in addressing the Government of the People's Republic of China's continued persecution of its own citizens, including the use of intrusive mass surveillance.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 222—RECOGNIZING VISION TO LEARN AS A NATIONAL LEADER IN IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES, THEREBY HELPING THOSE STUDENTS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL, AND FOR PROVIDING VISION EXAMS TO 200,000 STUDENTS SINCE ITS FOUNDING**

Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BURR, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 222

Whereas, on March 27, 2012, Vision To Learn was founded by Austin and Virginia Beutner in Los Angeles, California, to address the problem of students in low-income communities lacking the glasses needed for those students to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas Vision To Learn began with a single mobile vision clinic, staffed with an eye doctor and an optician—

(1) visiting Napa Street Elementary, a Los Angeles Unified School District campus in Northridge, California; and

(2) providing 5 students with vision exams and prescription eyeglasses free of charge;

Whereas Vision To Learn operates 25 mobile vision clinics, which have provided vision exams to 200,000 students in 13 States, including—

- (1) California;
- (2) Delaware;
- (3) Georgia;
- (4) Hawaii;
- (5) Iowa;
- (6) Louisiana;
- (7) Maryland;
- (8) Michigan;
- (9) Mississippi;
- (10) New Jersey;
- (11) North Carolina;
- (12) Pennsylvania; and
- (13) Virginia;

Whereas Vision To Learn has leveraged partnerships with State Medicaid programs and other organizations, including the United Way of Iowa, Prevent Blindness Iowa, and the Longwood Foundation in Delaware, to increase program stability and further expand access to vision services;

Whereas Vision To Learn is leading an effort by educators and eye care professionals to raise awareness of the inability of some students to see clearly due to correctable

myopia or hyperopia, a basic educational hurdle impacting over 2,000,000 students nationwide that can be solved by providing students with a basic vision exam and a pair of prescription glasses;

Whereas the innovative mobile vision clinic model developed by Vision To Learn delivers basic eye care to students at school, where the students are every day, thereby bypassing common hurdles preventing children from seeing an eye doctor, such as—

- (1) the inability of a parent or guardian to take time off of work;
- (2) a lack of transportation;
- (3) a shortage of eye care providers accepting Medicaid; and
- (4) a misunderstanding of the cost or necessity of eye care;

Whereas Vision To Learn has demonstrated the ability of mobile vision clinics to provide access to care for students in both urban and rural communities;

Whereas, by reaching students who have never visited an eye doctor and providing those students with a first pair of glasses, Vision To Learn introduces students and parents to the need for ongoing eye care, making it more likely that those students and parents will seek out regular exams from a local optometrist or ophthalmologist;

Whereas the program developed by Vision To Learn identifies thousands of students with more serious eye conditions and refers those students to local eye doctors for follow-up exams, in many cases intervening before students experience permanent vision loss;

Whereas, in an effort to quantify the impact of Vision To Learn on the ability of students to access optometric care, the performance of students in school, and the behavior of students in the classroom, the program developed by Vision To Learn has been studied by health and educational researchers at—

(1) the University of California, Los Angeles, Mattel Children's Hospital (referred to in this preamble as "UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital");

(2) the California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services; and

(3) The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute;

Whereas the study carried out by UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital found that—

(1) after receiving glasses, students "were able to pay better attention in class, were more engaged, and were more willing to complete their schoolwork, all of which contributed to better overall school performance"; and

(2) "Serving students in school rather than referring them to an outside optometrist increased both access to and use of glasses by both making it easier for families to obtain glasses and changing the school culture to decrease the stigma associated with wearing glasses.";

Whereas Vision To Learn seeks to make the experience of getting glasses fun for children—

(1) by partnering with sports teams, such as—

- (A) the Los Angeles Dodgers;
- (B) the Los Angeles Clippers;
- (C) the Golden State Warriors;
- (D) the Atlanta Hawks;
- (E) the Detroit Pistons;
- (F) the San Jose Sharks; and
- (G) the Baltimore Ravens; and

(2) by having professional athletes participate in events at schools where children get glasses;

Whereas the service level of Vision To Learn has grown an average of 50 percent every year, bringing critical vision services to thousands of additional children, with the

ultimate goal that no child in the United States go to school without the glasses needed for that child to see clearly;

Whereas Vision To Learn is a public-private partnership combining funding from community and corporate foundations and private donors, reimbursement from Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and State and local matching funds to support a sustainable program that will help students for years to come;

Whereas Vision To Learn has demonstrated that the program model developed and used by Vision To Learn represents a realistic, affordable pathway to eliminating lack of glasses as an educational barrier to students nationwide;

Whereas Vision To Learn has collaborated with partners in the eye-health and education sectors who have greatly aided Vision To Learn in reaching the milestone of helping 200,000 students, including—

- (1) Rotary International Clubs;
- (2) The Johns Hopkins Wilmer Eye Institute;
- (3) the Essilor Vision Foundation;
- (4) Warby Parker;
- (5) Helen Keller International ChildSight;
- (6) the University of California, Los Angeles, Stein Eye Institute;
- (7) Project Vision Hawaii;
- (8) Western University College of Optometry;
- (9) Prevent Blindness Northern California;
- (10) Classic Optical Laboratories;
- (11) Capital Optical;
- (12) Klauer Optical;
- (13) the California School Nurses Organization;
- (14) Hawaii Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn;
- (15) Conexus;
- (16) the Baltimore City Health Department;
- (17) the Detroit Health Department;
- (18) the Kent County Health Department;
- (19) the California Teachers Association; and
- (20) school nurses throughout the areas served by Vision To Learn;

Whereas Vision To Learn has been recognized as a leader in the field—

(1) by the Campaign For Grade-Level Reading, which named Vision To Learn a "Pacesetter Program" in 2014;

(2) by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, which named Vision To Learn a "Bright Spot in Hispanic Education" in 2015;

(3) by the California Teachers Association, which presented the "State Gold Award" to Vision To Learn in 2013;

(4) in letters of commendation from—

- (A) House Speaker Nancy Pelosi;
- (B) Representative Maxine Waters; and
- (C) the Ronald Reagan Library; and
- (5) in newspaper op-eds by—
- (A) Senator Chris Coons;
- (B) Delaware Governor Jack Markell;
- (C) Richmond, Virginia, Mayor Levar Stoney;
- (D) Long Beach, California, Mayor Robert Garcia;
- (E) Detroit, Michigan, Mayor Mike Duggan;
- (F) Wilmington, Delaware, Mayor Michael Furzycki; and
- (G) former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour;

Whereas, according to the American Optometric Association, uncorrected vision conditions affect 1 in every 4 children, yet only 39 percent of students referred to an eye exam through a routine vision screening actually end up seeing an eye doctor, and this discrepancy is far worse in high-poverty communities of color; and

Whereas addressing the basic eye care needs of students is an often overlooked but

critical strategy to improve the educational attainment of those students: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Vision To Learn on helping 200,000 students;

(2) recognizes Vision To Learn as a national leader in providing school-based vision care and commends the strides the organization has made in that effort; and

(3) supports the mission of Vision To Learn to ensure that no child goes without the glasses needed for that child to succeed in school and in life.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 223—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 17, 2019, AS “DIPG PEDIATRIC BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND ENCOURAGE RESEARCH ON DIFFUSE INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA TUMORS AND PEDIATRIC CANCERS IN GENERAL**

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 223**

Whereas diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this preamble as “DIPG”) tumors regularly affect 200 to 400 children in the United States each year;

Whereas brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related death among children;

Whereas, during childhood, DIPG tumors are—

(1) the second most common type of malignant brain tumor; and

(2) the leading cause of pediatric brain cancer deaths;

Whereas, with respect to a child who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor and receives treatment for a DIPG tumor, the median amount of time that the child survives after diagnosis is only 9 months;

Whereas, with respect to an individual who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor, the rate of survival 5 years after diagnosis is approximately 2 percent;

Whereas the average age at which a child is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor is between 5 and 9 years, resulting in a life expectancy approximately 70 years shorter than the average life expectancy in the United States; and

Whereas the prognosis for children diagnosed with DIPG tumors has not improved over the past 40 years: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) designating May 17, 2019, as “DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day”; and

(B) efforts—

(i) to better understand diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors;

(ii) to develop effective treatments for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors; and

(iii) to provide comprehensive care for children with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and their families; and

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States to become more informed about—

(A) diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors;

(B) pediatric brain cancer in general; and

(C) challenges relating to research on pediatric cancers and ways to advance such research.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 224—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, TO BE OBSERVED FROM MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 2019**

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 224**

Whereas, beginning in 1991, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as “National Recognition Day for Nurses”, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting to protect the lives of individuals under their care;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the health care professions, with an estimated population of 4,000,000 registered nurses in the United States;

Whereas nurses are leading in the delivery of quality care in a transformed health care system that improves patient outcomes and safety;

Whereas the Future of Nursing report of the Institute of Medicine has called for the nursing profession to meet the call for leadership in a team-based delivery model;

Whereas, when nurse staffing levels increase, the risk of patient complications and lengthy hospital stays decreases, resulting in cost savings;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and the work of nurses encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry, including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses provide care that is sensitive to the regional and community customs of individuals needing care;

Whereas nurses are well-positioned to provide leadership to eliminate health care disparities that exist in the United States;

Whereas nurses are the cornerstone of the public health infrastructure, promoting healthy lifestyles and educating communities on disease prevention and health promotion;

Whereas nurses help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve—

(1) the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses; and

(2) the health and safety of the patients for whom the nurses care;

Whereas there is a need—

(1) to strengthen nursing workforce development programs at all levels, including the number of doctorally prepared faculty members; and

(2) to provide education to the nurse research scientists who can develop new nursing care models to improve the health status of the diverse population of the United States;

Whereas nurses touch the lives of the people of the United States through every stage of life; and

Whereas nursing has been voted the most honest and ethical profession in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association;

(2) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with

appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 225—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY**

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KING, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 225**

Whereas the National Academy of Medicine (referred to in this preamble as “NAM”), formerly known as the Institute of Medicine, has found Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (referred to in this preamble as “ME/CFS”) to be “a serious, chronic, complex, and systemic disease that frequently and dramatically limits the activities of affected patients”;

Whereas between 836,000 and 2,500,000 individuals of all ages, races, and sexes in the United States are believed to be afflicted with ME/CFS, with millions more afflicted by ME/CFS worldwide, and the vast majority of individuals with ME/CFS are undiagnosed or misdiagnosed;

Whereas ME/CFS is approximately 4 times more prevalent in women than in men;

Whereas ME/CFS is a chronic disease with no known cure and leaves ¼ of individuals with ME/CFS housebound or bedbound for extended periods of time;

Whereas 50 to 75 percent of individuals with ME/CFS cannot work or attend school;

Whereas medical expenses and lost productivity related to ME/CFS cost the economy of the United States an estimated \$17,000,000,000 to \$24,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the cause of ME/CFS is unknown, there is no diagnostic test for ME/CFS, and there is no treatment for ME/CFS that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration;

Whereas NAM has noted a “paucity of research” on ME/CFS and that “more research is essential”;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called ME/CFS “America’s Hidden Health Crisis”;

Whereas individuals with ME/CFS struggle to find doctors to care for them, and ME/CFS is included in less than ⅓ of medical school curricula;

Whereas, in recognition of the dearth of research on ME/CFS and the profound impact that the disease has on individuals with ME/CFS and their loved ones and caretakers, the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this preamble as the “NIH”) is “committed to unraveling the underlying biologic cause(s) of ME/CFS as swiftly as possible, and promoting research that will inform the development of effective strategies for treatment and prevention of this devastating condition”;

Whereas, in 2017, 11 Institutes at the NIH and the Office of the Director of the NIH contributed more than \$7,000,000 in grants to assist in establishing Collaborative Research Centers and a Data Management Coordinating Center to improve the coordination of ME/CFS research and help accelerate understanding of ME/CFS; and