Whereas the percentage of children who are in kinship foster care has increased by almost 10 percent since 2006;
Whereas the number of children placed in foster care continues to increase due in part to the opioid crisis and child welfare agencies are increasingly reliant on families who take in kin;
Whereas while kinship care is the most common term for relative caregivers of children, they are sometimes also referred to as kin caregivers or grandfamilies;
Whereas kinship caregivers 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 kinship caregivers provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable households for vulnerable children;
Whereas kinship care homes offer a refuge for traumatized children;
Whereas kinship care enables a child to maintain family relationships and cultural heritage and remain in the community of the child;
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 children in kinship care experience better placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavioral problems relative to other children in foster care;
Whereas kinship caregivers face daunting challenges to keep children from entering foster care;
Whereas because of parental substance use disorders and other adverse childhood experiences, children in kinship care frequently have trauma-related conditions;
Whereas many kinship caregivers give up their retirement years to assume parenting duties for children;
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 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 is proud to recognize the many kinship care families in which a child is raised by grandparents, other relatives, and family friends;
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 helping 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 115–121; 132 Stat. 64) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141; 132 Stat. 591);
Whereas in 2018, Congress provided for the formation of the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to examine the needs of 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, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates September 2019 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 tirelessly provide assistance and services to kinship caregiving families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 940. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. Lee)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS
SA 940. Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. Lee)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1340, to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes; as follows:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.; 22 U.S.C. 2393 et seq.) for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.); to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructure, hygiene activities, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate with the scale of the Ebola outbreak and conduct activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2019

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5285, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5285) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

EBOLA ERADICATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the order of August 1, 2019, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 102, S. 1340.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Bill (S. 1340) to authorize activities to combat the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was read a second time, and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4285) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.
SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION TO ADDRESS THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including multi-sectoral, non-humanitarian, and non-trade related foreign assistance, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other vulnerable countries to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak and conduct activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate with the availability of appropriations, such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate with both the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and community resistance to response efforts remain major obstacles to ending the current Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the outbreak continues to spread. (b) Report to Congress.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) describing the actions the Administrator has taken under section 3(a) to end the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(2) proposing any additional legal authorities required to improve the response to the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. RUBIO. I further ask unanimous consent that the Menendez-Lee amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 940) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the authority to provide assistance)

On page 7, strike lines 12 through 25 and insert the following:

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107), and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall immediately provide assistance, including targeted foreign assistance under chapters 1 and 10 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), for global health and activities necessary to respond to the threat posed by Ebola, and under chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.), to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Burundi to effectively combat the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018, including water and sanitation infrastructure, global health activities, public messaging and other critical activities necessary for ending the outbreak. Such assistance shall be provided at levels commensurate with the threat posed by the Ebola outbreak and conduct activities necessary for an effective response. Activities to expand and improve access to communities heavily affected by the Ebola outbreak should be prioritized under this section.

(b) Report to Congress.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) describing the actions the Administrator has taken under section 3(a) to end the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(2) proposing any additional legal authorities required to improve the response to the Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 323, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 323) designating September 2019 as ‘‘National Kinship Care Month’’.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. RUBIO. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the resolution be ordered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 323) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(Resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s Record under ‘‘Submitted Resolutions.’’)