

EC-4096. A communication from the Senior Director of Government Affairs and Corporate Communications, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, Amtrak's fiscal year 2021 General and Legislative Annual Report, fiscal year 2021 grant request, and Amtrak's fiscal year 2021-2025 Five-Year Service and Asset Line Plan; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-182. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to establish and fund programs that support positive health practices for minority mothers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 123

Whereas, as the country with the highest maternal death rate in the developed world, the U.S. lags behind many other countries. The U.S. also struggles with persistent racial disparities. Black mothers in the U.S. die at three to four times the rate of white mothers according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. From 2011 to 2013, pregnancy-related deaths among black women were dramatically higher than women of other races, with 43.5 deaths per 100,000 live births among black women compared to 12.7 and 14.4 deaths per 100,000 live births among white women and women of other races, respectively; and

Whereas, Michigan ranks 27th in the nation for its maternal mortality rate, and Michigan's pregnancy-related mortality rates are particularly concerning for black women. Between 1999 and 2010, black women in Michigan experienced a pregnancy-related mortality rate of 50.8 deaths per 100,000 live births compared to 16.6 deaths per 100,000 live births for white women according to the Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance Project; and

Whereas, the high death rate of minority mothers is one of the widest of all racial disparities in women's health. Black women are 22 percent more likely to die from heart disease than white women and 71 percent more likely to die from cervical cancer, but they are 243 percent more likely to die from pregnancy- or childbirth-related causes. Black women are two to three times more likely than white women to die from pregnancy-related conditions, such as preeclampsia, eclampsia, abruptio placentae, placenta previa, and postpartum hemorrhage. These alarming statistics for black maternal health cut across socio-economic status, maternal age, and education levels; and

Whereas, despite the nationwide need for improvements in maternal health, more than 100 diseases and conditions receive more funding from the National Institutes of Health than maternal health; and

Whereas, it is important to recognize the necessity of ending maternal mortality nationally and globally and intensifying initiatives to improve maternal health and rights. It is vital to bring attention to the state of minority and black maternal health, study and understand the root causes of poor maternal health outcomes, and support community-driven programs and care solutions. We acknowledge the crucial importance of improving prenatal care, overall maternal health care, breastfeeding rates, and nutrition. To properly address maternal health

disparities, it is critical to amplify the voices of black mothers, women, families, and stakeholders, as well as people from all racial and ethnic minorities who are burdened by unjust health disparities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the Congress of the United States to establish and fund programs that support positive health practices for minority mothers; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-183. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the United States Congress to provide access to banking and insurance services to legal cannabis and cannabis-related businesses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE PAPER 1440

Whereas, despite being illegal at the federal level, cannabis is now legal in 33 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which account for 68% of the population of the United States; and

Whereas, due to the conflict between state and federal law, the vast majority of financial institutions and insurers are unwilling to provide services to legal cannabis businesses, and those that do could be subject to severe criminal and civil penalties; and

Whereas, in addition to legal cannabis businesses being denied access to banking services, businesses that serve the cannabis industry, either directly or indirectly, may be denied banking services simply because they are being paid with money derived from cannabis sales; and

Whereas, lacking banking services, many legal cannabis businesses operate solely in cash, and cash-based systems are inefficient, expensive and opaque and make illicit activity more difficult for law enforcement agencies and state regulators to track; and

Whereas, lacking access to insurance, many legal cannabis businesses are unable to obtain sufficient coverage for business risks, leaving consumers, employees, vendors and owners without adequate financial protection; and

Whereas, a bipartisan group of 38 attorneys general has identified cash associated with the cannabis industry as a public safety concern; and

Whereas, despite guidance from the United States Department of the Treasury, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to clarify federal Bank Secrecy Act expectations, federal banking regulators lack the legal authority to provide banks a safe harbor from federal law; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has the sole authority to solve the banking and insurance issue by enacting legislation that provides protections for insurers, including surety bond writers, and financial institutions that offer services to legal cannabis businesses and service providers for such businesses; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the Congress of the United States enact federal laws regarding the use and sale of cannabis that respect state law and promote public safety without compromising federal enforcement of money laundering laws against criminal enterprises; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of

the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-184. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky urging the United States Congress to require car manufacturers to improve safety devices on automobiles for the protection of children left in cars; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, vehicular heatstroke is a term used by safety experts to describe the death of a person, especially a child, left unattended in a vehicle, where even on mild days temperatures can reach greater than 100 degrees; and

Whereas, in 2018, a record number of 53 children died, and in the first half of 2019 at least 29 children have died, due to vehicular heatstroke; and

Whereas, more than half of vehicular heatstroke cases from 1998 to 2018 were because an adult accidentally left a child in the vehicle; and

Whereas, a child's vehicular heatstroke death is a matter of circumstance that could happen to any parent and has happened to people in all walks of life; and

Whereas, vehicular heatstroke is one of the leading causes of non-crash-related fatalities among children; and

Whereas, technology currently exists, such as seat belt clasp monitors, rear door opening sensors, and seat weight sensors, that could equip motor vehicles with a system to detect the presence of a child in the rear seat of a vehicle after the vehicle is turned off and the driver exits the vehicle; and

Whereas, if sensors detect a child is left, the system would issue an audible warning; and

Whereas, the installation of such technology would help prevent heatstroke-related deaths due to children being left alone in a vehicle; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Kentucky House of Representatives respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to require automobile manufacturers to install safety features that will give an audible alert when a child is left in the backseat to prevent the deaths of children from being left alone in a hot car. Technology used could include, but not be limited to, seat belt monitors, rear door opening sensors, and seat weight sensors. These sensors should give an audible alert through the car's horn if the child is not removed within a minimum amount of time after the driver exits the vehicle.

Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall send a copy of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States of America, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and each member of the Kentucky Congressional Delegation.

POM-185. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to drug pricing negotiation for Medicare and Medicaid recipients; to the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first