

(4) honors the ultimate sacrifice of the three American firefighters who lost their lives assisting in fighting Australia's bushfires in the crash of the Large Air Tanker in the Snowy Monaro area of Australia on January 23, 2020, and extends deepest condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues;

(5) expresses full support for the people of Australia as they focus on recovery and rebuilding affected areas and communities;

(6) supports continued partnership between the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and United States Federal agencies to share research, technology, and best practices related to wildfire mitigation and suppression; and

(7) supports continued cooperation and greater collaboration between Australia and the United States to mitigate the underlying factors driving extended and more intense wildfire years in both countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 528—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BLUEBERRY INDUSTRY TO THE UNITED STATES AND DESIGNATING JULY 2020 AS “NATIONAL BLUEBERRY MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 528

Whereas the blueberry is a fruit native to North America that was first used fresh and dried in food and medicines by Native Americans, who introduced blueberries to early colonists, which led to new uses and forms of blueberries, including frozen, establishing traditions still observed in 2020;

Whereas the pioneering work conducted in New Jersey in the early 1900s by Elizabeth White and Dr. Frederick Coville, a botanist at the Department of Agriculture, to domesticate wild lowbush blueberries resulted in the development of the hybrid for cultivated highbush blueberries;

Whereas, because of those early efforts, highbush blueberries are large, sweet, juicy berries that can be commercially produced and shipped, allowing the highbush blueberry industry to become an important agricultural industry in the United States;

Whereas highbush blueberries—

(1) have a harvested area estimated at more than 97,000 acres; and

(2) are produced in 48 States by more than 14,000 growers and their families;

Whereas highbush blueberry production in the United States has continually increased, with particular growth during the first 2 decades of the 21st century, reaching a harvest of 551,100,000 pounds in 2018;

Whereas blueberries are—

(1) low in fat; and

(2) a source of fiber, vitamins, and minerals;

Whereas blueberries are being studied to examine the role that the berries may play in promoting good health in areas such as cardiovascular health, brain health, exercise, insulin response, and gut health; and

Whereas highbush blueberries are harvested in the United States from April through early September, with the peak of the harvest occurring in July: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2020 as “National Blueberry Month”;

(2) recognizes the contributions of blueberry growers in the United States and their families; and

(3) recognizes that purchasing blueberries grown in the United States supports farmers, jobs, and the economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 529—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 29, 2020, AS “RARE DISEASE DAY”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 529

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is a disease or disorder that affects a small number of patients;

Whereas, in the United States, a rare disease or disorder typically affects fewer than 200,000 individuals;

Whereas, as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, more than 7,000 rare diseases or disorders affect approximately 30,000,000 individuals in the United States and their families;

Whereas children with rare diseases or disorders account for a significant portion of the population affected by rare diseases or disorders in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases and disorders are serious and life-threatening and lack effective treatments;

Whereas, as a result of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049), important advances have been made in the research and treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration has made strides in gathering patient perspectives to inform the drug review process as part of the Patient-Focused Drug Development program, an initiative that was reaffirmed under the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-52; 131 Stat. 1005);

Whereas, although the Food and Drug Administration has approved more than 840 orphan indications for drugs and biological products for the treatment of rare diseases and disorders, millions of individuals in the United States have a rare disease or disorder for which there is no approved treatment;

Whereas limited treatment options and difficulty obtaining reimbursement for life-altering and lifesaving treatments can be challenging for individuals with rare diseases or disorders and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and disorders include acrodermatitis enteropathica, medulloblastoma, Hartnup disease, mast cell activation syndrome, Usher syndrome, osteosarcoma, Kabuki syndrome, Fanconi anemia, Neurofibromatosis, NGLY1 deficiency, Chandler's syndrome, tularemia, and Joubert syndrome;

Whereas individuals with rare diseases or disorders can experience difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses and finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their rare disease or disorder;

Whereas the 115th Congress passed a 10-year extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.), ensuring health insurance coverage for many children with rare diseases or disorders;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health support research on the treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas 2020 marks the 37th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049);

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas, in 2020, Rare Disease Day falls on the rarest of days, February 29;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event that was first observed in the United States

on February 28, 2009, and was observed in more than 100 countries in 2019; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease and disorder patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 29, 2020, as “Rare Disease Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of, with respect to rare diseases and disorders—

(A) improving awareness;

(B) encouraging accurate and early diagnosis; and

(C) supporting national and global efforts to develop effective treatments, diagnostics, and cures.

SENATE RESOLUTION 530—DESIGNATING MARCH 4, 2020, AS “NATIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY”

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

S. RES. 530

Whereas assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities and older adults;

Whereas the term “assistive technology service” means any service that directly assists an individual with a disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device;

Whereas, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 1 in 4 individuals in the United States, or almost 61,000,000 individuals, has a disability;

Whereas, in 2017, the Department of Education reported that there were more than 7,000,000 children with disabilities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, among adults 65 years of age and older, 2 in 5 have a disability;

Whereas assistive technology allows individuals with disabilities and older adults to be included in their communities and in inclusive classrooms and workplaces;

Whereas assistive technology devices and services are necessities, not luxury items, for millions of individuals with disabilities and older adults, without which they would be unable to live in their communities, access education, or obtain, retain, and advance gainful, competitive, integrated employment;

Whereas the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-sufficiency, enhances work participation, and is critical to the employment of individuals with disabilities and older adults; and

Whereas State assistive technology programs support a continuum of services that include—

(1) the exchange, repair, recycling, and other reutilization of assistive technology devices;

(2) device loan programs that provide short-term loans of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, and others;

(3) the demonstration of devices to inform decision making; and

(4) State financing to help individuals purchase or obtain assistive technology through a variety of initiatives, such as financial loan programs, leasing programs, and other financing alternatives, that give individuals affordable, flexible options to purchase or