

Whereas, in 2018—

(1) more than 114,000 children 19 years of age and younger were treated in an emergency room due to unintended pediatric poisoning; and

(2) more than 90 percent of those incidents occurred in the home, most often with blood pressure medications, acetaminophen, laundry packets, bleach, or sedatives or anti-anxiety medication;

Whereas 70,237 cases of death due to drug overdose were reported in the United States in 2017, and the majority of those cases, approximately 68 percent, involved an opioid;

Whereas the most common medications that adults call the poison help line about are analgesics, antipsychotics, antidepressants, and cardiovascular medications;

Whereas pain medications—

(1) lead the list of the most common substances implicated in adult poison exposures; and

(2) are the single most frequent cause of pediatric fatalities reported to the AAPCC;

Whereas poison control centers issue guidance and provide support to individuals, including individuals who experience medication and dosing errors;

Whereas more than 60 percent of therapeutic errors involve individuals 20 years of age or older, with more than ½ of those involving patients older than 50 years of age, and common errors include drug interactions, incorrect dosing route, incorrect timing of doses, and double doses;

Whereas normal, curious children younger than 6 years of age—

(1) are in stages of growth and development in which they are constantly exploring and investigating the world around them; and

(2) are often unable to read or recognize warning labels;

Whereas the AAPCC—

(1) engages in community outreach by educating the public on poison safety and poisoning prevention; and

(2) provides educational resources, materials, and guidelines to educate the public on poisoning prevention;

Whereas individuals can reach a poison control center from anywhere in the United States by calling the poison help line at 1-800-222-1222;

Whereas, despite regulations of the Consumer Product Safety Commission requiring that a child-resistant package be designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for children under 5 years of age to open, or obtain a harmful amount of the contents, within a reasonable time, children can still get into child-resistant packages; and

Whereas, each year during National Poison Prevention Week, the Federal Government assesses the progress made by the Federal Government in saving lives and reaffirms the national commitment of the Federal Government to preventing injuries and deaths from poisoning; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the week of March 15 through March 21, 2020, as “National Poison Prevention Week”;

(2) expresses gratitude for the people who operate or support poison control centers in their local communities;

(3) supports efforts and resources to provide poison prevention guidance or emergency assistance in response to poisonings; and

(4) encourages—

(A) the people of the United States to educate their communities and families about poison safety and poisoning prevention; and

(B) health care providers to practice and promote poison safety and poisoning prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 547—ENCOURAGING THE PRESIDENT TO USE AUTHORITIES PROVIDED BY THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950 TO SCALE UP THE NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. JONES, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 547

Whereas more than 3,800 people in the United States have already tested positive for the novel coronavirus across 49 States, the District of Columbia, and 3 territories, with experts believing the number is already much higher;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have projected that between 160,000,000 and 214,000,000 people could be infected by the novel coronavirus in the United States over the course of the pandemic;

Whereas the United States health care sector is facing severe shortages of critical supplies for coronavirus testing and treatment, including personal protective equipment for staff and infected patients, N95 respirators, sanitizing materials, ventilators, and test kit supplies;

Whereas the Strategic National Stockpile contains only a fraction of the supplies that the Department of Health and Human Services estimates will be necessary to respond to the coronavirus crisis, with the stockpile currently holding less than 0.3 percent of the amount of respirators estimated to be necessary;

Whereas the President has the existing authority under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) to take immediate action to mobilize United States industry for emergency preparedness activities conducted pursuant to title VI of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5195 et seq.), which has been previously used to respond to public health hazards; and

Whereas the President issued a national emergency declaration relating to the novel coronavirus under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191(b)) on March 13, 2020; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the President to use existing authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) to massively and quickly ramp up production in the United States of medical supplies, including personal protective equipment, needed to respond to the ongoing public health emergency driven by the spread of the novel coronavirus;

(2) urges the President to prioritize the use of those authorities to produce and secure additional personal protective equipment, test kit supplies, respirators, ventilators, and sanitizing materials for use within the health care sector in the United States;

(3) supports the use of authorities under title I of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4511 et seq.) to allocate and control the distribution of medical materials needed for testing and treating the novel coronavirus, including by directing suppliers to prioritize and accept government contracts to restock the Strategic National Stockpile where necessary;

(4) supports the use of authorities under title III of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4531 et seq.) to provide financial incentives to manufacturers and suppliers of critical medical equipment, including loans, loan guarantees, direct purchases, and purchase commitments; and

(5) supports the use of authorities under title VII of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4551 et seq.) to establish voluntary agreements between the Federal Government and private industry that would allow for the temporary coordination of production of necessary and scarce medical supplies.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1556. Mr. PAUL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6201, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

SA 1557. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6201, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1558. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LEE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. BARRASSO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6201, supra.

SA 1559. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. HARRIS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6201, supra.

SA 1560. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6201, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1556. Mr. PAUL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6201, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIREMENT FOR CHILD TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 24(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(1) SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIRED.—No credit shall be allowed under this section to a taxpayer with respect to any qualifying child unless the taxpayer includes the social security number of such child on the return of tax for the taxable year. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘social security number’ means a social security number issued to an individual by the Social Security Administration, but only if the social security number is issued—

“(A) to a citizen of the United States or pursuant to subclause (I) (or that portion of subclause (III) that relates to subclause (I)) of section 205(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act, and

“(B) before the due date for such return.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (h) of section 24 of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “paragraph (7)” in paragraph (4)(C) and inserting “subsection (e)(1)”,

(B) by striking paragraph (7), and

(C) by striking “(2) through (7)” in paragraph (1) and inserting “(2) through (6)”.

(2) Section 6213(g)(2)(I) of such Code is amended by striking “TIN” and inserting “social security number”.