

(A) the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which guarantees for 50 years the protection of the basic rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, including those of speech, press, assembly, association, travel, movement, correspondence, and strike; and

(B) the Hong Kong Basic Law, which reserves the authority for enacting laws prohibiting treason, secession, sedition, subversion, and foreign interference to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; and

(2) the United States Government should use all diplomatic means available, including targeted sanctions, to—

(A) dissuade the Government of the People's Republic of China from passing the proposed Hong Kong national security law;

(B) compel the Government of the People's Republic of China to rescind the proposed Hong Kong national security law, if it is passed; and

(C) rally all free nations to stand with the people of Hong Kong against increasingly severe violations by the Government of the People's Republic of China of the rights and liberties guaranteed to them under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—DESIGNATING MAY 2020 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 597

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately 1/3 of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2019, there were more than 55,030,278 individuals who were 65 years of age or older in the United States, and those individuals accounted for 16.7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas approximately 10,000 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 9,056,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are 60 years of age or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 10,798,199 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2020 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 6,422,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of older individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of older individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2020 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 598

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 30 years ago to—

(1) bring foster care issues to the forefront;

(2) highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-

being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 437,000 children living in foster care;

Whereas there were approximately 263,000 youth that entered the foster care system in 2018, while more than 71,000 youth were eligible and awaiting adoption at the end of 2018;

Whereas the number of children living in foster care has increased dramatically in recent years;

Whereas more than 94,000 children entered foster care in 2018 due to parental drug abuse;

Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be reunited with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents—

(1) are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents;

(2) provide physical care, emotional support, and education advocacy; and

(3) are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas, compared to children in foster care who are placed with nonrelatives, children in foster care who are placed with relatives have more stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to remain in the foster care system;

Whereas almost 18,000 youth “aged out” of foster care in 2018 without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 19 months;

Whereas 34 percent of children in foster care experience more than 2 placements while in foster care, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability, with 1 study showing that 75 percent of foster youth experienced an unscheduled school change during a school year, compared to 21 percent of youth not in foster care;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas 30 percent of children in foster care are taking at least 1 antipsychotic medication, and 34 percent of those children are not receiving adequate treatment planning or medication monitoring;

Whereas, due to heavy caseloads and limited resources, the average turnover rate for child welfare workers is 30 percent;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and postpermanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are

provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 232), which provided new investments in prevention and family reunification services to help more families stay together and ensure that more children are in safe, loving, and permanent homes;

Whereas Federal legislation over the past 3 decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272; 94 Stat. 500), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89; 111 Stat. 2115), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351; 122 Stat. 3949), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34; 125 Stat. 369), and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183; 128 Stat. 1919), provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas May 2020 is an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, the advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication and accomplishments and the positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Foster Care Month;

(2) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster care system;

(3) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in foster care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system;

(8) supports the designation of May 31, 2020, as National Foster Parent Appreciation Day;

(9) recognizes National Foster Parent Appreciation Day as an opportunity—

(A) to recognize the efforts of foster parents to provide safe and loving care for children in need; and

(B) to raise awareness about the increasing need for foster parents to serve in their communities; and

(10) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed to—

(A) support vulnerable families;

(B) invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) adequately serve children brought into the foster care system; and

(E) facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that “age out” of the foster care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE LEE ROY WEST

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

S. RES. 599

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West was born in Clayton, Oklahoma, on November 26, 1929, and died on April 24, 2020, in Muskogee, Oklahoma;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West was the youngest of 4 children in a family he called “too poor to paint and too proud to white-wash”;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West graduated from Antlers High School in 1948 and hitchhiked to Norman, Oklahoma, to attend the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1952;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West graduated from Harvard Law School with a juris doctor in 1956 and later earned a master of laws from Harvard Law School in 1963;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West served the United States with the 3rd Marine Division in Japan and the 1st Marine Division in Korea;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West practiced law—

(1) in Ada, Oklahoma, from 1956 to 1961 and from 1963 to 1965; and

(2) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from 1978 to 1979;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West taught law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law from 1961 to 1962 and was a Ford Foundation fellow at Harvard Law School from 1962 to 1963;

Whereas Governor Henry Bellmon appointed Judge Lee Roy West to serve as a State court judge for the 22nd Judicial District of Oklahoma, where he served from 1965 to 1973;

Whereas, in 1973, President Richard Nixon appointed Judge Lee Roy West to the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas, on September 28, 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Lee Roy West to serve on the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma;

Whereas the Senate confirmed the nomination of Judge Lee Roy West on October 31, 1979;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West served as chief justice of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma from 1993 to 1994;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West served on the Federal bench in Oklahoma City for nearly 40 years; and

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West was inducted into—

(1) the Field Trial Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tennessee in 2004; and

(2) the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2012; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors—

(1) the life and legacy of Judge Lee Roy West; and

(2) the commitment of Judge Lee Roy West to his family, the law, Oklahoma, and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—RECOGNIZING WIDENING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD, REAFFIRMING THE CENTRALITY OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS TO THE HEALTH OF FREE SOCIETIES AND DEMOCRACIES, AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY ON MAY 3, 2020

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 600

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris December 10, 1948, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3rd of each year as “World Press Freedom Day”—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press;

(2) to evaluate freedom of the press around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/163, regarding the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity for crimes against journalists, which unequivocally condemns all attacks on, and violence against, journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in conflict and nonconflict situations;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who recognized the importance of the press in a constitutional republic, wisely declared, “were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”;

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and various State constitutions protect freedom of the press in the United States;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-166; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* of the Department of State;

Whereas a vigilant commitment to freedom of the press is especially necessary in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic—

(1) as governments around the world are using emergency laws to restrict access to information, impose press restrictions, and suppress free speech; and