

is up by 30 percent, the number of students from rural areas entering medical school declined by 28 percent between 2002 and 2017, with only 4.3 percent of all incoming medical students coming from rural areas in 2017. Similarly, Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Native American students face several barriers to matriculate and graduate from medical school. This exacerbates the barriers to care and the disparities in health outcomes that these communities experience. It is critical that we expand the diversity of our physician workforce to tackle the rampant disparities and systemic biases within our healthcare system.

This is why I am introducing the Expanding Medical Education Act, which aims to tackle the lack of representation of rural students, underserved students, and students of color in the physician pipeline by encouraging the recruitment, enrollment, and retention of students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The bill would provide grants through the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA to colleges and universities to establish or expand allopathic or osteopathic medical schools in underserved areas or at minority-serving institutions, including historically Black colleges and universities, HBCU. These grants can be used for planning and construction of a medical school in an area in which no other school is based; hiring diverse faculty and staff; recruitment, enrollment, and retention of students; and other purposes to ensure increased representation of rural students, underserved students, and students of color in our physician workforce.

Our rural communities and communities of color face significant challenges in access to healthcare. It is time our physician workforce reflected these communities. We need to diversify our physician pipeline and change the disparity in representation, and this bill will help get us there. I hope the Senate passes this legislation quickly to expand the diversity of the medical profession and to take a step towards improved access to care for our marginalized communities.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 664—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2020, AS “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK”

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 664

Whereas the last Sunday in September—
(1) is designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as ‘Gold Star Mother’s Day’, and for other purposes”, approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 20 through September 26, 2020, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”;

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 665—RE-AFFIRMING THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MONGOLIA AND RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEMOCRACY IN MONGOLIA

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 665

Whereas the United States and Mongolia established diplomatic relations in January 1987, and since that time the relationship has grown stronger based on shared strategic interests, security cooperation, democratic values, good governance, and respect for human rights;

Whereas, since its peaceful democratic revolution in 1989, through a series of initiatives, Mongolia has charted a successful path to multiparty democracy and a free market economy;

Whereas, in 1990, the Government of Mongolia declared an end to a one-party, authoritarian, political system and adopted democratic and free market reforms;

Whereas, in 1992, Mongolia adopted a constitution establishing a parliamentary democracy, becoming the first country in Asia to transition from communism to democracy;

Whereas Mongolia has shown its commitment to a “third neighbor” relationship with

the United States by sending troops to support United States operations in Iraq from 2003 through 2008 and Afghanistan since 2009, and Mongolia has a strong record of troop contributions to international peacekeeping missions;

Whereas successive Mongolian governments have taken notable steps to strengthen civil society, battle corruption, and spur economic development;

Whereas the Parliament of Mongolia, the State Great Khural, has engaged with Congress, including through the House Democracy Partnership, thereby promoting responsive and effective governance through peer-to-peer cooperation;

Whereas Mongolia began as a partner to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2004, graduated to become a participating state in 2012, and participates actively in the work of the OSCE for stability, peace, and democracy;

Whereas Mongolia has regularly invited the OSCE and other organizations to send monitoring teams for its presidential and parliamentary elections;

Whereas Mongolia has also been an active member of the Community of Democracies (CoD), a global coalition of states that support adherence to common democratic values and standards, and Mongolia has not only remained active since the founding of the CoD in 2000, but successfully chaired the CoD from 2011 through 2013;

Whereas, in addition to supporting the OSCE and CoD, Mongolia supports democratic initiatives while participating in a wide range of other global institutions;

Whereas, most recently, on June 24, 2020, Mongolia successfully organized parliamentary elections, strengthening its commitment to democracy and the rule of law;

Whereas the success of Mongolia as a democracy and its strategic location, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and ability to pursue an independent foreign policy are highly relevant to the national security of the United States;

Whereas the United States has provided support to Mongolia through the Millennium Challenge Corporation through an initial compact signed in 2007 designed to increase economic growth and reduce poverty and a second compact signed in 2018 involving investments in water infrastructure, including supply and wastewater recycling, as well as water sector sustainability;

Whereas, on September 20, 2018, the United States and Mongolia signed a joint statement and the Roadmap for Expanded Economic Partnership, outlining the intent to deepen the bilateral commercial relationship through full implementation of the obligations under the Agreement on Transparency in Matters Related to International Trade and Investment between the United States of America and Mongolia, signed at New York September 24, 2013 (in this preamble referred to as the “United States-Mongolia Transparency Agreement”), and to collaborate in supporting Mongolian small- and medium-sized enterprises through various programs and projects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, trade between the United States and Mongolia is modest but growing, with total trade in 2019 between the two countries of approximately \$217,500,000, including \$192,700,000 in United States exports to Mongolia and \$24,800,000 in United States imports from Mongolia;

Whereas Mongolia is a beneficiary country under the Generalized System of Preferences program, but its use of the program remains low, as, in 2018, only \$3,300,000 of exports from Mongolia to the United States were under the program; and