

prescription pill and be dead within minutes. Iso is just like fentanyl in that regard.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, iso is confirmed to have killed at least 18 Americans in 4 different States and has been encountered in at least 48 confirmed incidents across 9 States.

However, it has likely killed many more. We don't know for sure because tests for iso still are not widely available, given its novelty, and overdose deaths due to a cocktail of iso mixed with heroin, cocaine, or other drugs may be inadvertently attributed only to the known substance.

What we do know is that iso is just the latest weapon that the Chinese drug dealers are using in their opium war against America. First, they developed designer fentanyl analogs, which have killed—and continue to kill—Americans by the thousands.

However, we have taken strong action against fentanyl. Last year, we passed my legislation, the Fentanyl Sanctions Act, to punish Chinese drug dealers, and the President—equally important—pressured China's leader to crack down on underground drug labs in their own country, which sent nine fentanyl smugglers to prison.

These efforts have made a difference, but the fight is not over. China's drug dealers have developed a new poison to send to America.

Iso has no recognized medical or industrial use. It is nothing more and nothing less than a way to profit off of addiction and death. These Chinese drug dealers want iso to be the new fentanyl, so we have to take strong action to make sure they fail before more Americans are killed.

The DEA has already taken swift action by classifying iso as a schedule I controlled substance, its most restrictive classification. But this is only a temporary measure that will last 2 years, at most.

Congress should, therefore, act to ensure iso stays on that list for good. That is why I am introducing legislation to permanently classify iso as a schedule I controlled substance. This will ensure iso receives the strictest regulations under our drug laws, and it will help our brave drug enforcement agents keep this deadly drug off of our streets.

Furthermore, I call upon the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party to crack down on the production of iso in the Chinese mainland. If the leaders of the party wish to reduce tensions, if they wish to improve relations, they ought not to allow their own criminals to manufacture drugs with no legitimate purpose specifically designed for smuggling into America to poison our citizens.

I urge my colleagues and the administration to join in this effort to stop iso before it spreads even further. This drug has already killed too many of our fellow citizens. We need to stop it before it kills even more.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 4653. A bill to protect the healthcare of hundreds of millions of people of the United States and prevent efforts of the Department of Justice to advocate courts to strike down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; read the first time.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4653

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PROHIBITING DOJ EFFORTS TO ADVOCATE COURTS TO STRIKE DOWN PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.**

The Department of Justice may not in any case, including in *California v. Texas*, No. 19-840 (U.S. cert. granted Mar. 2, 2020), advocate that a court invalidate any provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) or any amendment made by that Act.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4656. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a reduction in certain loan fees for certain veterans affected by major disasters; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. HIRONO. M. President, in 2018, Hawaii's Kilauea Volcano erupted, destroying upwards of 700 homes, including a home purchased by a veteran using the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. When this veteran went to replace the home he had lost by once again using the Home Loan Guaranty Program, he found that he would be forced to pay significantly higher fees for using the program a second time.

Our Nation's veterans should not be penalized for losing their homes to natural disasters and it is for this reason that I come to the floor today to introduce the Veteran Home Loan Disaster Recovery Act of 2020.

Congress has established a variety of programs in pursuit of both thanking our Nation's veterans and ensuring that they are able to live comfortable lives after their service has ended. One of these programs is the VA Home Loan Guaranty program, which provides eligible veterans the opportunity to access mortgages backed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under the program the VA guarantees a portion of a home loan from a private lender allowing the veteran borrower to receive favorable mortgage terms.

Participants in this program are required to pay a funding fee in place of closing cost and that fee increases based on various factors, including whether this is a veteran's first time using the program or if they have previously had a VA Home Loan. For those who have used the loan before, the fee is higher, regardless of the circumstances that led to their needing to purchase a home through the program, including if their previous home was destroyed by a natural disaster.

The Veteran Home Loan Disaster Recovery Act of 2020 would exempt program participants from the subsequent loan funding fee increase if they lost their first home to a natural disaster, allowing them to access a lower rate as if they were a first-time participant in the program.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in 2019, there were 101 Presidentially-declared disasters across the Nation. So far in 2020, there have been 92 major disaster declarations alone. Right now, wildfires rage in different parts of the Nation, and we are in the midst of hurricane season in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

As we continue to experience raging wildfires, volcanic eruptions, and massive hurricanes, it is critical that we ensure that we work to limit the ripple effects from these disasters. Giving veterans the ability to replace homes lost through no fault of their own is one step in that direction.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 711—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE EXECUTIVE ACTION TO BROADLY CANCEL FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 711

Whereas the United States is facing historic public health and economic crises caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that threatens the financial well-being of nearly every American family;

Whereas even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States also faced a historic student loan crisis, which is currently holding back our struggling economy and restricting opportunity and prosperity for millions of American families;

Whereas nearly 43,000,000 Americans currently hold more than \$1,500,000,000,000 in Federal student loan debt;

Whereas more than 9,000,000 Federal student loan borrowers are currently in default on those Federal student loans;

Whereas the COVID-19 economic recession and historic unemployment have compounded stagnant wages, labor market discrimination, and rising costs of living, making it nearly impossible for many Americans to ever fully repay their student loans;

Whereas this historic student debt crisis has left millions of Americans less prepared to weather the recession triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic as communities of color, which never fully recovered from the devastating effects of the previous economic recession, have been hit hardest by the devastating health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas student debt disproportionately impacts borrowers of color, who face the

worst effects of the student debt crisis, with—

(1) Black students, due to ongoing structural barriers that have resulted in persistent racial inequities in incomes and wealth, forced to accrue more student debt and more often than their White peers;

(2) Black student borrowers struggling more in student loan repayment, including defaulting at higher rates than their White peers;

(3) nearly half of Black graduates owing more on their undergraduate student loans 4 years after graduation than they did when they received their degree;

(4) the median Black student borrower owing 95 percent of their debt 20 years after starting college, while the median White student borrower owing 6 percent of their debt after such period; and

(5) Latinx student borrowers, who borrow at rates similar to their White peers despite having lower household incomes and significantly less household wealth, are more likely than their White peers to default on their student loans;

Whereas Black students and other students who have attended Historically Black Colleges and Universities have had to bear a larger share of student loan debt because of the historic and continued underfunding of these institutions at the State and Federal levels;

Whereas student debt cancellation for the families that need it most can substantially increase Black and Latinx household wealth and help close racial wealth gaps;

Whereas women hold more than two-thirds of the Nation's student loan debt and must borrow an average of \$3,000 more than men to attend higher education;

Whereas, if left unaddressed, the student debt crisis will worsen inequality, exacerbate the current recession, widen the racial wealth gap, and slow economic recovery;

Whereas broad student debt cancellation is the most efficient and effective solution to our student debt crisis, would help millions of families, and would remove a significant drag holding back our economy;

Whereas broad student debt cancellation would provide immediate relief to millions of American families who are struggling during this pandemic and recession, and prevent them from having an unsustainable student debt burden waiting for them once this pandemic is over;

Whereas broad student debt cancellation would provide a boost to our struggling economy through a consumer-driven economic stimulus, greater home-buying rates and housing stability, expanded access to more affordable financial products including car loans and mortgages, higher college completion rates, and greater small business formation;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump's Memorandum on Continued Student Loan Payment Relief During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Issued August 8, 2020, will expire on December 31, 2020, causing tens of millions of Federal student loan borrowers to enter repayment on New Year's Day of 2021, including recent graduates facing one of the toughest job markets in recent history;

Whereas more than 100 community, civil rights, consumer, and student advocacy organizations have urged student debt cancellation for all borrowers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic public health and economic crises;

Whereas Congress has already granted the Secretary of Education the legal authority to broadly cancel student debt under section 432(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1082(a)), which grants the Secretary the authority to modify, "... compromise, waive, or release any right, title, claim, lien,

or demand, however acquired, including any equity or any right of redemption";

Whereas the United States Department of Education has reportedly used this authority to implement relief for Federal student loan borrowers during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas on June 29, 2020, President Donald J. Trump, with the support of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, vetoed H.J. Res. 76 "Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to 'Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability'", blocking a resolution that passed Congress with bipartisan support to overturn a Department of Education rule that makes it harder for defrauded Federal student loan borrowers to see their loans discharged: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Secretary of Education's broad administrative authority to cancel Federal student loan debt under the existing authorities of section 432(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1082(a));

(2) calls on the President of the United States to take executive action to broadly cancel up to \$50,000 in Federal student loan debt for Federal student loan borrowers administratively using existing legal authorities under such section 432(a), and any other authorities available under the law;

(3) encourages the President of the United States, in taking such executive action, to use the executive's authority under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure no tax liability for Federal student loan borrowers resulting from administrative debt cancellation;

(4) encourages the President of the United States, in taking such executive action, to ensure that administrative debt cancellation helps close racial wealth gaps and avoids the bulk of Federal student debt cancellation benefits accruing to the wealthiest borrowers; and

(5) encourages the President of the United States to continue to pause student loan payments and interest accumulation for Federal student loan borrowers for the entire duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 712—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, AS "COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATORS APPRECIATION WEEK"

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 712

Whereas community schools marshal, align, and unite the assets, resources, and capacity of schools and communities for the success of students, families, and communities;

Whereas community schools are an effective, evidence-based, and equity-driven strategy for school improvement included under section 4625 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7275), as added by section 4601 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 2029);

Whereas community schools that provide integrated student supports, well-designed and expanded learning opportunities, and active family and community engagement and that use collaborative leadership and prac-

tices have positive academic and nonacademic outcomes, including improvements in student attendance, behavior, academic achievement, school readiness, and mental and physical health, high school graduation rates, and school climate and reduced racial and economic achievement gaps;

Whereas community schools have the potential for closing racial and economic achievement gaps, as indicated in a 2017 report;

Whereas a 2020 study found that New York City's community schools had a positive impact on student attendance, on-time grade progression, and credit accumulation for high school students;

Whereas community schools provide a strong social return on investment, with one study citing a social return of between \$10 to \$15 for every dollar invested over a 3-year period;

Whereas community school coordinators are essential to building successful community schools and creating, strengthening, and maintaining partnerships between community schools and their communities;

Whereas community school coordinators facilitate and provide leadership for the collaborative process and development of a continuum of supports and opportunities for children, families, and others within a school's community that allow all students to learn and the community to thrive;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (referred to in this preamble as "COVID-19") pandemic poses additional academic, social, emotional, and health challenges for students, educators, and staff at community schools;

Whereas community school coordinators have proven to be innovative and resourceful in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through organizing volunteers for mobile food pantries, hosting virtual parent hangouts and student lunch groups, continuing to support onsite behavioral health programs through an online platform, and participating in advocacy efforts to halt eviction orders in their communities;

Whereas community school coordinators, through their role, deliver a strong monetary return on investment for community schools and their communities, with one study citing a return of \$7.11 for every dollar invested in the salary of a community school coordinator; and

Whereas Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week, celebrated from September 21 through September 25, 2020, recognizes, raises awareness of, and celebrates the thousands of community school coordinators across the country and the critical role of community school coordinators in the success of students: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 21 through September 25, 2020, as "Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week";

(2) thanks community school coordinators for the work they do to serve students, families, and communities, especially as communities continue to respond to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic; and

(3) encourages students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in virtual events that celebrate Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, September 23, 2020.