

to seize political power. You shouldn't wear a mask to protect against the coronavirus, because wearing a mask actually weakens your immune system. And do not worry if you catch the corona virus—you can treat it by drinking bleach.

These claims might seem ridiculous, but they have real word consequences. A study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene found that 5,800 people had been hospitalized and at least 800 people died in the first three months of this year alone as a direct result of coronavirus-related misinformation. As recently as August, the Georgia Department of Health and the Texas Poison Control Center had to warn people not to drink bleach to treat COVID. While more Americans regularly wear masks in public, a recent poll found that 15% still do not. And, perhaps most troubling, polls suggest that between 35% and 50% of the U.S. population will not get a COVID vaccine when it is approved.

If we hope to get past the coronavirus and avoid similar public health crises in the future, we must understand where misinformation originates, how it spreads, and strategies to stop it.

This is exactly what the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act will do. It directs the National Science Foundation to partner with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms. This study will provide critical information on the roles disinformation and misinformation have played in the public response to COVID-19; the sources of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation and the ways it has influenced the public debate; the role social media plays in the disseminating and promoting this disinformation and misinformation; and potential strategies for combatting misinformation and disinformation in the future.

This information will not stop the next pandemic from coming. And, it will not force the next Administration to take it seriously and follow the advice of doctors and scientists. But it can give us the knowledge and tools necessary to avoid another infodemic and ensure the American public receives accurate and authoritative information when it is most needed.

I therefore encourage my colleagues to support the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 715—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida,

Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 715

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist Minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of the *Youth's Companion*;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, for over 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag, to the country having been established as a union "under God", and to the country being dedicated to securing "liberty and justice for all";

Whereas, in 1954, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the Senate of the 116th Congress believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism;

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also contain general references to "God";

Whereas the Supreme Court overturned *Newdow v. United States Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by a student's public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit later concluded that its previous opinion in *Newdow* was no longer binding precedent, that case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed, and that Congress, when passing the new version of the Pledge of Allegiance, established a secular purpose for the use of the terms "under God" and, thus, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and

(2) the Senate strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 716—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 9, 2020, AS "MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms.

SINEMA, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

#### S. RES. 716

Whereas malnutrition is the condition that occurs when a person does not get enough protein, calories, or nutrients;

Whereas the 2020 Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic (referred to in this preamble as the "2020 coronavirus pandemic")—

(1) has resulted in a significant increase in food insecurity, which is linked to malnutrition; and

(2) has nearly doubled food insufficiency rates since 2019;

Whereas the 2020 coronavirus pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on children, as 13,900,000 children live in a household characterized by child food insufficiency, and the rate of households with food insufficient children in 2020 was more than 5 times the rate of households with food insufficient children in 2019;

Whereas the impact of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic on the chronically ill has forced the examination of chronic disease prevention, especially through nutrient consumption and absorption, which is examined in the 2020-2030 Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research published by the National Institutes of Health;

Whereas malnutrition is a significant problem in the United States and around the world, crossing all age, racial, class, gender, and geographic lines;

Whereas infants, older adults, people with chronic diseases, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics has found that failure to provide key nutrients during early childhood may result in lifelong deficits in brain function;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition affects between 30 and 50 percent of patients admitted to hospitals, and the medical costs of hospitalized patients with malnutrition can be 300 percent more than the medical costs of properly nourished patients;

Whereas, according to the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update, as many as 1/2 of older adults living in the community are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

Whereas disease-associated malnutrition in older adults alone costs the United States more than \$51,300,000,000 each year; and

Whereas the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition established Malnutrition Awareness Week to raise awareness and promote prevention of malnutrition across the lifespan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 5 through October 9, 2020, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week";

(2) recognizes registered dietitian nutritionists and other nutrition professionals, health care providers, social workers, advocates, caregivers, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness, treatment, and prevention of malnutrition;

(3)(A) recognizes the importance of existing Federal nutrition programs for their role in combating malnutrition; and

(B) supports emergency funding for those critical Federal nutrition programs for the duration of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

(4) recognizes—

(A) the importance of medical nutrition therapy under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); and

(B) the need for vulnerable populations to have access to nutrition counseling;

(5) recognizes the importance of the innovative research conducted by the National Institutes of Health on—

(A) nutrition, dietary patterns, and the human gastrointestinal microbiome; and

(B) how those factors influence the prevention or development of chronic disease throughout the lifespan; and

(6)(A) supports access to a malnutrition screening and assessment; and

(B) encourages the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to evaluate—

(i) the provision of a malnutrition screening and assessment through telehealth during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency; and

(ii) the adoption of malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 717—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, AS “NATIONAL ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY”, AND RAISING AWARENESS OF ATAXIA, ATAXIA RESEARCH, AND THE SEARCH FOR A CURE**

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 717

Whereas ataxia is a clinical manifestation indicating degeneration or dysfunction of the brain that negatively affects the coordination, precision, and accurate timing of physical movements;

Whereas ataxia can strike individuals of all ages, including children;

Whereas the term “ataxia” is used to classify a group of rare, inherited neurodegenerative diseases including—

- (1) ataxia telangiectasia;
- (2) episodic ataxia;
- (3) Friedreich’s ataxia; and
- (4) spinocerebellar ataxia;

Whereas there are many known types of genetic ataxia, but the genetic basis for ataxia in some patients is still unknown;

Whereas all inherited ataxias affect fewer than 200,000 individuals and, therefore, are recognized as rare diseases under the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049);

Whereas some genetic ataxias are inherited in an autosomal dominant manner, while others are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner;

Whereas ataxia symptoms can also be caused by noninherited health conditions and other factors, including stroke, tumor, cerebral palsy, head trauma, multiple sclerosis, alcohol abuse, and certain medications;

Whereas ataxia can present physical, psychological, and financial challenges for patients and their families;

Whereas symptoms and outcomes of ataxia progress at different rates and include—

- (1) lack of coordination;
- (2) slurred speech;
- (3) cardiomyopathy;
- (4) scoliosis;
- (5) eye movement abnormalities;
- (6) difficulty walking;
- (7) tremors;
- (8) trouble eating and swallowing;
- (9) difficulties with other activities that require fine motor skills; and

(10) death;

Whereas most patients with ataxia require the use of assistive devices, such as wheelchairs and walkers, to aid in their mobility, and many individuals may need physical and occupational therapy;

Whereas there is no treatment or cure approved by the Food and Drug Administration for ataxia; and

Whereas clinical research to develop safe and effective treatments for ataxia is ongoing: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the need for greater public awareness of ataxia;

(2) expresses support for the designation of September 25, 2020, as “National Ataxia Awareness Day”;

(3) supports the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day, which are—

(A) to raise awareness of the causes and symptoms of ataxia among the general public and health care professionals;

(B) to improve diagnosis of ataxia and access to care for patients affected by ataxia; and

(C) to accelerate ataxia research, including on safe and effective treatment options and, ultimately, a cure;

(4) acknowledges the challenges facing individuals in the United States who have ataxia and the families of those individuals; and

(5) encourages States, territories, and localities to support the goals of National Ataxia Awareness Day.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 718—RE-AFFIRMING THE SENATE’S COMMITMENT TO THE ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER CALLED FOR IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 718

Whereas the United States is founded on the principle that our Government derives its power from the consent of the governed and that the people have the right to change their elected leaders through elections;

Whereas our domestic tranquility, national security, general welfare, and civil liberties depend upon the peaceful and orderly transfer of power; and

Whereas any disruption occasioned by the transfer of the executive power could produce results detrimental to the safety and well-being of the United States and its people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States; and

(2) intends that there should be no disruptions by the President or any person in power to overturn the will of the people of the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 719—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 22, 2020, AS “NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY”**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ

MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 719

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes September 22, 2020, as “National Voter Registration Day”; and

(2) encourages each voting-eligible citizen of the United States—

(A) to register to vote;

(B) to verify with the appropriate State or local election official that the name, address, and other personal information on record is current; and

(C) to cast a ballot in the election if the voting-eligible citizen would like to do so.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 720—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 8, 2020, AS “NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY”**

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 720

Whereas hydrogen, which has an atomic mass of 1.008, is the most abundant element in the universe;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development and deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cells played an instrumental role in the United States space program, helping the United States achieve the mission of landing a man on the Moon;

Whereas private industry, Federal and State governments, national laboratories, and institutions of higher education continue to improve fuel cell and hydrogen technologies to address the most pressing energy, environmental, and economic issues of the United States;

Whereas fuel cells utilizing hydrogen and hydrogen-rich fuels to generate electricity are clean, efficient, safe, and resilient technologies being used for—

(1) stationary and backup power generation; and

(2) zero-emission transportation for light-duty vehicles, industrial vehicles, delivery vans, buses, trucks, trains, military vehicles, marine applications, and aerial vehicles;

Whereas stationary fuel cells are being placed in service for continuous and backup power to provide business and energy consumers with reliable power in the event of grid outages;

Whereas stationary fuel cells can help reduce water use, as compared to traditional power generation technologies;

Whereas fuel cell electric vehicles that utilize hydrogen can completely replicate the experience of internal combustion vehicles, including comparable range and refueling times;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cell industrial vehicles are being deployed at logistical hubs and warehouses across the United States and exported to facilities in Europe and Asia;

Whereas hydrogen is a nontoxic gas that can be derived from a variety of domestically available traditional and renewable resources, including solar, wind, biogas, and the abundant supply of natural gas in the United States;