

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 727—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS “NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 727

Whereas ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer deaths in women in the United States and accounts for more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system;

Whereas, in the United States, a woman's lifetime risk of being diagnosed with ovarian cancer is about 1 in 78;

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates 21,750 new cases of ovarian cancer will be diagnosed in 2020 and 13,940 people will die from the disease nationwide;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is 46.5 percent, and survival rates vary greatly depending on the stage of diagnosis;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is over 90 percent for women diagnosed in early stages;

Whereas, while the mammogram can detect breast cancer and the Pap smear can detect cervical cancer, there is no reliable early detection test for ovarian cancer;

Whereas, in June 2007, the first national consensus statement on ovarian cancer symptoms was developed to provide consistency in describing symptoms and make it easier for women to learn and remember those symptoms;

Whereas too many people remain unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, urinary symptoms, and several other vague symptoms that are often easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas improved awareness of the symptoms of ovarian cancer by the public and health care providers can lead to a quicker diagnosis;

Whereas the lack of an early detection test for ovarian cancer, combined with its vague symptoms, mean that approximately 80 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, but approximately 20 percent of women who are diagnosed with ovarian cancer have a hereditary predisposition to ovarian cancer, which places them at even higher risk;

Whereas scientists and physicians have uncovered changes in the BRCA genes that some women inherit from their parents, which may make those women 30 times more likely to develop ovarian cancer;

Whereas the family history of a woman has been found to play an important role in accurately assessing a woman's risk of developing ovarian cancer, and medical experts believe that family history should be taken into consideration during the annual well-woman visit of any woman;

Whereas women who know that they are at high risk of ovarian cancer may undertake prophylactic measures to help reduce the risk of developing this disease;

Whereas guidelines issued by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and the Society of Gynecologic Oncology (SGO)

recommend that all individuals diagnosed with ovarian cancer receive genetic counseling and genetic testing regardless of their family history;

Whereas studies consistently show that compliance with such guidelines is alarmingly low, with recently published National Cancer Institute-funded research finding that in 2013 and 2014, only 1/3 of ovarian cancer survivors had undergone such testing;

Whereas, according to a 2016 consensus report by the National Academy of Medicine, “there remain surprising gaps in the fundamental knowledge about and understanding of ovarian cancer” across all aspects of the disease;

Whereas ongoing investments in ovarian cancer research and education and awareness efforts are critical to closing these gaps and improving survivorship for women with ovarian cancer;

Whereas, each year during the month of September, the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA) and its community partners hold a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer and its symptoms; and

Whereas September 2020 should be designated as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month” to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as “National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month”; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 728—RECOGNIZING THE INSTRUMENTAL ROLE UNITED STATES GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY THE FEED THE FUTURE PROGRAM, HAVE PLAYED IN REDUCING GLOBAL POVERTY, BUILDING RESILIENCE AND TACKLING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AROUND THE WORLD, AND CALLING FOR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY IN THE FACE OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

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

S. RES. 728

Whereas food security and nutrition are fundamental to human development, particularly in the critical 1,000 day window until a child's second birthday, and persistent hunger and malnutrition stunt children's mental and physical development and hinder the health, prosperity, and security of societies;

Whereas food insecurity and malnutrition in low- and middle-income countries force tens of millions of people into poverty, contribute to political and social instability, and erode economic growth;

Whereas in its 2014 Worldwide Threat Assessment of the United States, the United States intelligence community reported that the “lack of adequate food will be a destabilizing factor in countries important to United States national security” and has since consistently linked global food insecurity to broader instability;

Whereas, despite decades of progress, the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report for 2020 indicates that global hunger has increased since 2014, with 2,000,000,000 people worldwide currently experiencing food insecurity, of which nearly

Through all of this, people continue to go to work and try to carry out their duties the best they can. In the Federal Government, there are National Institutes of Health researchers, Internal Revenue Service workers, Social Security staff, law enforcement officers, and others, working each day to provide government services to the American public. Some are not able to take leave because their job is a critical part of the response to the pandemic. Others are simply unable to take leave because they are limiting their exposure to the virus or are following state and local rules to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

To try and address this issue, on August 10, the Office of Personnel Management published an interim rule that recognizes the COVID-19 pandemic as an “exigency of the public business” and allows some federal employees to carry over use or lose leave. However, this policy is limited to employees who are designated as essential by their agency.

This contrasts with the Department of Defense which issued a memo on April 16, allowing all active-duty service members to accrue leave in excess of their 60-day limitation, regardless of job responsibilities or duty station. All Federal employees contribute to their agency's mission, regardless of the job they hold. No one should lose earned annual leave due to this pandemic.

To resolve this inequity, I am introducing the Federal Worker Leave Fairness Act which will allow all Federal employees to carry over annual leave above the 240 hour cap, regardless of whether they are considered essential. My bill also resolves this issue for future pandemics declared a national public health emergency by allowing “use or lose” leave to be rolled over during the emergency declaration.

This legislation is being introduced in the House by Representatives DEREK KILMER and JENNIFER WEXTON and is supported by the National Treasury Employees Union; American Federation of Government Employees; Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association; International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers; National Federation of Federal Employees; Federal Managers Association; FAA Managers Association; National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association; and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

This bill is a small act of fairness in an otherwise stressful and overwhelming year. I urge my colleagues to support this bill in recognition of our hardworking federal workforce.

I yield the floor.