

nurse midwives to order home health services. Far too often seniors experience unnecessary delays in accessing home health care. To avoid these needless delays, it is common sense that other medical professionals who are familiar with a patient's case should be able to order these services.

Home health professionals have continued to provide face-to-face services during the COVID-19 public health emergency, but this crisis has created additional challenges, including the need to maintain an adequate supply of personal protective equipment to protect themselves, their patients, and their patients' families. The use of telehealth and virtual visits can help address these challenges. Unlike other Medicare providers, however, home health agencies are not eligible to receive Medicare reimbursement for telehealth services during the COVID-19 emergency.

In May, I led Congress' first hearing examining COVID-19's devastating impact on seniors. During the hearing, Dr. Steven H. Landers, President and CEO of the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group, testified that, despite this lack of Medicare reimbursement, his organization has found telehealth to be an essential part of providing high quality home health care during the COVID-19 public health emergency. He urged action to ensure that home health providers can continue offering these critical services remotely.

Maine home health care providers have also shared stories about how telehealth is helping them to continue caring for their patients during COVID-19. Through a combination of video visits and care calls, one provider has been able to care for a woman with severe heart and lung disease and keep this patient out of the hospital. The nurse would speak with the woman by phone a couple of times per week to assess any symptoms that needed follow up. If the nurse identified an issue during the call, she would schedule a video visit and also work with the patient's physician to modify medications as needed.

The bill I am introducing today would authorize Medicare reimbursement for home health services provided through telehealth during a public health emergency where telehealth can be used appropriately. The services would not be reimbursed unless the beneficiary consents to receiving the services via telehealth. To ensure that the Medicare home health benefit does not become a telehealth-only benefit, Medicare reimbursement would only be provided if the telehealth services constitute no more than half of the billable visits made during the 30-day payment period.

Home health serves a vital role in helping our nation's seniors avoid more costly hospital visits and nursing home stays. The COVID-19 emergency has further underscored the critical importance of home health services and highlighted how these agencies are able to

use telehealth to provide skilled care to their patients. The Home Health Emergency Access to Telehealth (HEAT) Act would ensure that seniors in Maine and across the country retain access to remote home health services during the COVID-19 emergency and future public health emergencies.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 756—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA AND ALL PARTIES TO RESPECT HUMAN, CIVIL, AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND ENSURE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER 2020, AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY IN TANZANIA

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 756

Whereas the United States has an important interest in supporting democracy in Tanzania and has consistently demonstrated support for the people of Tanzania through efforts to advance good governance, economic growth, and improved access to health and education;

Whereas respect for human, civil, and political rights and deepening multiparty democracy are essential to Tanzania's long-term economic prosperity and continued political stability;

Whereas the conduct of elections will have a significant impact on the trajectory of democratic growth in Tanzania, as well as its relationship with the United States;

Whereas Tanzania has held successive multiparty elections since 1995, with the elections in 2015 being the most competitive to date, despite substantial state interference in political organizing by the opposition, both during and following the campaign period;

Whereas, since President John Magufuli's election in 2015, the Government of Tanzania has adopted and enforced multiple repressive laws that restrict media freedoms, and freedoms of expression, assembly, and association, such as the Cybercrimes Act of 2015, the Media Services Act of 2016, the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations Act of 2020, the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Act, 2018, and the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act No. 3 of 2020;

Whereas the Government of Tanzania has promulgated onerous regulations that actively undermine the independent collection, dissemination, and publication of statistics without government approval, and suspended or halted activities by multiple newspapers and digital and broadcast media outlets in retaliation for publishing content deemed critical of the state or officials;

Whereas state actors have threatened, arbitrarily arrested, and attacked journalists with impunity, and some journalists have disappeared;

Whereas in mid-2016, the Magufuli Administration placed a ban on political party rallies until the 2020 elections;

Whereas political freedoms were further eroded following the amendment of the Political Parties Act in January 2019, which granted Tanzanian authorities sweeping powers to regulate the operations of opposi-

tion parties, and private opposition political party meetings have been broken up by police;

Whereas freedom of association has been limited through mandatory registration and reporting processes for nongovernmental organizations that are arbitrary in nature;

Whereas, in September 2019, the Government of Tanzania amended both the Companies Act and Nongovernmental Organization Act, which has severely restricted the ability of civil society organizations, particularly those focused on democracy and human rights, to receive foreign funds;

Whereas opposition leaders have been threatened, intimidated, and physically attacked, and the Magufuli Administration has failed to hold perpetrators accountable;

Whereas President Magufuli's failure to hold Tanzanian government actors accountable for arbitrary arrests, paired with actions to limit democratic space for civil society, opposition parties, and citizens of Tanzania, has undermined the Tanzanian Constitution and the rule of law;

Whereas the Government of Tanzania has rapidly escalated its campaign of repression against the opposition in the lead-up to the October 2020 elections, through arbitrary and partisan legal action against opposition candidates and their parties, which undermines democratic principles of fair play and potentially calls into question the credibility of the country's October polls;

Whereas some United States companies operating in Tanzania have reported harassment, corruption, and lack of respect for contracts and business operations, which threatens future United States business investment and trade partnerships; and

Whereas the Government of Tanzania's claim that the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been eliminated in the country, and its suppression of information related to the pandemic have not only placed citizens' health at risk, but have also violated citizens' freedom of speech and right of access to information: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Tanzania to ensure that the October 2020 elections are conducted in a free, fair, credible, transparent, and peaceful manner that enables citizens of Tanzania the opportunity to exercise their right to vote;

(2) urges the Government of Tanzania to legally guarantee and respect the rights enshrined in its Constitution, particularly the rights to freedom of movement, expression, information, religion, and association, as well as equality, privacy, and personal security;

(3) urges the Government of Tanzania to foster a robust, market-led business environment conducive to continued United States trade and investment in Tanzania, including respect for the legal and contractual rights of United States companies operating in Tanzania;

(4) calls upon the Government of Tanzania and President Magufuli—

(A) to repeal repressive laws that are contrary to the principles of good governance, a healthy democracy, and the rights enumerated in the Tanzanian Constitution;

(B) to allow citizens, civil society organizations, and political parties to assemble peacefully and express their views freely;

(C) to immediately lift the ban on political activities and allow opposition parties to hold political rallies and demonstrations at any time, both during and outside of election periods;

(D) to provide transparent, consistent, and nonintrusive procedures for nongovernmental organizations to register and to enable them to carry out programs and other

legal activity absent arbitrary state interference, including with respect to receiving funding or cooperating with foreign organizations;

(E) to safeguard press freedom, in accordance with the Tanzanian Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(F) to condemn threats and attacks against Members of Parliament and opposition political parties, and ensure accountability for harassment, intimidation, or physical attacks on members of the opposition;

(G) to end the escalating campaign of arbitrary and partisan legal action against opposition candidates and their parties in the lead-up to the October 2020 elections; and

(H) to guarantee the ability of domestic and international election observers to monitor the October 2020 polls without hindrance; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to continue to speak out against democratic backsliding in Tanzania and hold the Government of Tanzania accountable for respecting the rights of its citizens, in accordance with its international obligations and the Tanzanian Constitution, including by—

(A) considering the imposition of targeted sanctions and visa restrictions on actors involved in perpetrating or abetting human rights abuses;

(B) leading international partners and institutions, including those in Africa, in developing and implementing strategies and actions to promote and defend human, civil, and political rights and multiparty democracy in Tanzania;

(C) immediately conducting a review of United States Government assistance and cooperation with the Government of Tanzania for the purposes of reprioritizing such assistance should neutral observers determine that the October 2020 polls do not meet internationally accepted standards for credible elections; and

(D) demanding the Government of Tanzania conduct full and public investigations that ensure judicial accountability for acts of violence perpetrated against political opposition, journalists, and members of civil society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 757—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2020 AS “PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. JONES, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension:

S.RES. 757

Whereas pancreatic cancer will kill an estimated 47,050 people in the United States in 2020;

Whereas pancreatic cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States;

Whereas, in 2020, pancreatic cancer has killed two United States icons—Representative John Lewis and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg;

Whereas an additional 57,600 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2020;

Whereas, of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, 66 percent will die within the first year of their diagnosis;

Whereas persistent healthcare inequities and disparities for communities of color compound the devastation of pancreatic cancer;

Whereas the incidence rate for pancreatic cancer among Black Americans is 20 percent higher than that of any other racial demographic;

Whereas the pancreatic cancer death rate is 17 percent higher for Black men than for White men;

Whereas the lack of pancreatic cancer early detection research accelerates the racial unfairness in the United States healthcare system, with devastating consequences for minorities;

Whereas pancreatic cancer has no early detection test to diagnose this cancer quickly and accurately determine the presence of this cancer;

Whereas, if diagnosed early, the 5-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer patients is above 80 percent;

Whereas, if pancreatic cancer is detected late, the 5-year survival rate drops to less than 10 percent;

Whereas without adequate funding and early detection research, pancreatic cancer

is not discovered until the late stages of this horrific cancer when treatment options are limited;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2020, pancreatic cancer received its own dedicated research program at the Department of Defense under the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs;

Whereas, in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2020 (division A of Public Law 116-93), Congress appropriated funds to the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, with \$6,000,000 going to the Pancreatic Cancer Research Program; and

Whereas the 116th Congress has a unique opportunity to make a historic investment in pancreatic cancer research at the Department of Defense: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month” for the month of November, 2020;

(2) recognizes the critical importance of increasing funding for pancreatic cancer research at the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health to find effective treatments for this cancer and reduce the disproportionate impact on communities of color; and

(3) supports the efforts of the many advocacy organizations to educate communities in the United States about pancreatic cancer and the need for more research funding, early-detection initiatives, diagnostic tests, and effective treatments.

RECESS UNTIL TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 12 noon tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:33 p.m., recessed until Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

STEPHEN ANDREW KUBIATOWSKI, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE THOMAS CRAIG WHEELER, TERM EXPIRING.

JOSEPH DAWSON III, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE TERRY L. WOOTEN, RETIRED.