

enforce the antitrust laws, and for other purposes.

S. 248

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 248, a bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 255

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 255, a bill to establish a \$120,000,000,000 Restaurant Revitalization Fund to provide structured relief to food service or drinking establishments, and for other purposes.

S. 278

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 278, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged groups, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of not more than 9 justices.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the last Medal of Honor recipient of World War II, in order to honor the Greatest Generation and the more than 16,000,000 men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States from 1941 to 1945.

S. RES. 17

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 17, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that clean water is a national priority and

that the April 21, 2020, Navigable Waters Protection Rule should not be withdrawn or vacated.

S. RES. 34

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 34, a resolution recognizing the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

S. RES. 45

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 45, a resolution celebrating Black History Month.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 308. A bill to establish a pilot program to address shortages of testing equipment and personal protective equipment through enhanced domestic production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 308

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Providers Everywhere in America Act" or the "PPE in America Act".

SEC. 2. DOMESTIC PPE PROCUREMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 319F-2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6) DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—

"(i) REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE DOMESTIC END PRODUCTS.—For the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, subject to clause (ii), the Secretary shall ensure—

"(I) that not less than 40 percent of amounts made available under this section for purposes of procuring covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment for the stockpile under paragraph (1) are allocated to procurement of such equipment that is a domestic end product (as defined in part 25.003 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations maintained under section

1303(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code (or any successor regulations)) manufactured by an entity or entities that enter into a contract with the Secretary to sell such equipment to the Secretary for such purpose; and

"(II) that additional amounts made available under this section for the purposes described in subclause (I), up to 100 percent of such amounts, are allocated to procurement of domestic end products as described in subclause (I), provided that, with respect to any such procurement of domestic end products in excess of the amount required under subclause (I), domestic supply exists and the costs of procuring equipment that is a domestic end product are not unreasonably high compared to other equipment that is not a domestic end product.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—In the event that there is insufficient domestic end product available for procurement to meet the needs for certain covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment for the stockpile under paragraph (1) while satisfying the requirement of clause (i)(I), or that the cost of procuring equipment that is a domestic end product in quantities required under clause (i)(I) would be unreasonably high compared to other equipment that is not a domestic end product, clause (i)(I) shall apply with respect to the applicable equipment only to the extent that such equipment that is a domestic end product is available and to the extent that the cost is not unreasonable, as applicable.

"(B) SALE OR TRANSFER OF PPE.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment in the stockpile under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

"(I) shall assess the stock of such equipment on a regular basis, and not less frequently than—

"(aa) twice per year, other than during periods described in item (bb); or

"(bb) monthly, during any period in which the Secretary determines it likely that such equipment will be deployed, such as during a public health emergency;

"(II) shall communicate to manufacturers and suppliers of such equipment to the stockpile under paragraph (1) if an assessment under subclause (I) indicates that there will be an increased need for such equipment;

"(III) may, at appropriate intervals and with respect to any such equipment in such stockpile—

"(aa) transfer such equipment to other agencies or operating divisions within the Department of Health and Human Services, or to the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other Federal agency or department, in accordance with the needs of such agencies, divisions, or departments; or

"(bb) sell such equipment to health care facilities at a competitive price, as determined by the Secretary, taking into account the current market pricing for the applicable equipment and the operational budget for the stockpile; and

"(IV) may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an entity that has expertise in supply chain logistics and management to carry out the activities described in this subparagraph.

"(ii) GROUP PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS AND MEDICAL PRODUCT DISTRIBUTORS.—In making sales under clause (i)(II)(bb), the Secretary may transact with group purchasing organizations and medical product distributors to facilitate timeliness, logistical assistance, and appropriate pricing, and to determine appropriate amounts of covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment for applicable health care facilities.

"(iii) COMPENSATION TO HHS.—

“(I) TRANSFERS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—A Federal agency receiving equipment as described in clause (i)(II)(aa) shall transfer to the Secretary such amounts as the Secretary and head of the applicable agency determine to be fair compensation for such equipment.

“(II) SALES OF PPE.—There shall be transferred from the Treasury to the Secretary each fiscal year, for purposes of procuring covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment for the stockpile under paragraph (1), an amount equal to the sum of the amount received in the previous fiscal year from sales described in clause (i)(II)(bb).

“(C) VENDOR-MANAGED INVENTORY.—For purposes of meeting the goals under subparagraph (A), and to promote efficient and predictable operations of the stockpile while mitigating the risk of product expiration or shortages, the Secretary may enter into arrangements, through a competitive bidding process, with one or more manufacturers of domestic end products to establish and utilize revolving stockpiles of covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment managed and operated by such manufacturer. Under such an arrangement—

“(i) the manufacturer (or a subcontractor or agent of the manufacturer)—

“(I) shall—

“(aa) produce or procure covered testing equipment or personal protective equipment for the stockpile under paragraph (1);

“(bb) maintain constant supply, possession, and re-stocking capacity of such equipment in such quantities as the Secretary requires for purposes of the stockpile under paragraph (1); and

“(cc) fulfill or support the deployment, distribution, or dispensing functions of the stockpile at the State and local levels, consistent with paragraph (3); and

“(II) may sell or transfer such equipment for the purposes of the manufacturer’s existing inventory and commercial contracts; and

“(ii) the Secretary shall—

“(I) compensate the manufacturer for the covered testing equipment or personal protective equipment; and

“(II) pay a management fee, as appropriate.

“(D) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

“(I) conduct an evaluation of the program under this paragraph;

“(II) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, submit an interim report to Congress on such program; and

“(III) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, complete such evaluation and submit to Congress a final report on the program.

“(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—The evaluation and reports under clause (i) shall consider how the program has impacted the continuity of stockpiling and readiness for the stockpile under paragraph (1), implications of the program on the domestic supply chain, cost effectiveness of the program, and access to covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment for the Federal agencies and health care facilities pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i)(II).

“(E) COVERED TESTING EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘covered testing equipment and personal protective equipment’ means diagnostic supplies (which may include test kits, reagents, and swabs), respirators, masks, gloves, eye and face protection, gowns, and any other appropriate ancillary medical equipment or supplies related to testing or personal protection that meet the Secretary’s requirements for inclusion in the stockpile under paragraph (1).”.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. COONS):

S. 309. A bill to give Federal courts additional discretion to determine whether pretrial detention is appropriate for defendants charged with non-violent drug offenses in Federal criminal cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 309

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Smarter Pretrial Detention for Drug Charges Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. RELEASE CONDITIONS AND DETENTION IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL CASES.

Section 3142 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “(42 U.S.C. 14135a)” each place it appears and inserting “(34 U.S.C. 40702)”;

(2) in subsection (e)(3)—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) as subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D), respectively.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 311. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include certain employment as a health care practitioner as eligible for public service loan forgiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about an issue of critical importance to California: doctor shortages.

First, I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the entire medical community, particularly the doctors, nurses, and support staff who have been on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic. Amidst a severe shortage of protective equipment, they nevertheless continue to work around the clock to save countless lives. I—and my colleagues—are eternally grateful.

I have heard from countless Californians who have said the same thing: we need more doctors.

That is why Congress established the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program in 2007 to encourage doctors to pursue careers at public and nonprofit facilities, especially in areas experiencing physician shortages. As a result, physicians who provide care in a nonprofit or public hospital can have their student debt forgiven by the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program after making 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan.

However, when the Department of Education issued implementing guidance for the program, it unintentionally excluded California and Texas phy-

sicians from being eligible to receive loan forgiveness by requiring that borrowers be classified as employees in order to be eligible for loan forgiveness.

The problem is that under state law in California and Texas, doctors are prevented from being directly employed by corporations, including nonprofit organizations. As a result, physicians in California and Texas who provide medical services at nonprofit hospitals do not currently qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

To make matters worse, the United States is facing a shortage of physicians, especially in California.

The Council on Graduate Medical Education recommends 60 to 80 primary care physicians per 100,000 people. However, statewide in California, the number is already down to just 50 per 100,000 people. And in some places, it is even lower: down to 35 primary care physicians per 100,000 people and 39 per 100,000 people in the Inland Empire and San Joaquin Valley, respectively.

During this difficult and challenging time, it is clear that more medical professionals are needed. And long after this pandemic ends, we will still need more doctors to provide high-quality care, in both rural and urban areas.

That is why I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan “Stopping Doctor Shortages Act.” This legislation would help attract more doctors to public service and address the looming physician shortage by fixing a loophole that prevents thousands of doctors from participating in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

According to the California Medical Association, this bill alone could bring as many as 10,000 physicians to California over the next ten years.

Similar legislation, soon to be introduced in the House by Representatives JOSH HARDER, JAY OBERNOLTE, JOAQUIN CASTRO, and VAN TAYLOR, also enjoys bipartisan support.

I would like to thank Senator JOHN CORNYN for his support on this critical issue and for cosponsoring the bill.

I ask my colleagues to join us to pass the “Stopping Doctor Shortages Act” in a timely manner as we continue to find ways to combat the coronavirus pandemic and save lives.

Thank you, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 312. A bill to expand eligibility for and provide judicial review for the Elderly Home Detention Pilot Program, provide for compassionate release based on COVID-19 vulnerability, shorten the waiting period for judicial review during the COVID-19 pandemic, and make other technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 312

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “COVID-19 Safer Detention Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF COVERED EMERGENCY PERIOD.

Section 12003(a)(2) of the CARES Act (18 U.S.C. 3621 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “ending on the date” and inserting the following: “ending on the later of—

“(A) the date”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking the “and” at the end and inserting “or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) the date that is 30 days after the date on which the Bureau of Prisons ceases modified operations in response to COVID-19; and”.

SEC. 3. HOME DETENTION FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY NONVIOLENT OFFENDERS.

Section 231(g) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60541(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon motion of a defendant, on or after the date described in clause (ii), a court may reduce an imposed term of imprisonment of the defendant and substitute a term of supervised release with the condition of home detention for the unserved portion of the original term of imprisonment, after considering the factors set forth in section 3553(a) of title 18, United States Code, if the court finds the defendant is an eligible elderly offender or eligible terminally ill offender.

“(ii) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this clause is the earlier of—

“(I) the date on which the defendant fully exhausts all administrative rights to appeal a failure of the Bureau of Prisons to place the defendant on home detention; or

“(II) the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the defendant submits to the warden of the facility in which the defendant is imprisoned a request for placement of the defendant on home detention, regardless of the status of the request.”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

(i) by inserting “including offenses under the laws of the District of Columbia,” after “offense or offenses.”; and

(ii) by striking “2/3 of the term of imprisonment to which the offender was sentenced” and inserting “1/2 of the term of imprisonment reduced by any credit toward the service of the offender’s sentence awarded under section 3624(b) of title 18, United States Code”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)(i), by inserting “, including offenses under the laws of the District of Columbia,” after “offense or offenses.”.

SEC. 4. COMPASSIONATE RELEASE TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 3582 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting after “case” the following: “, including, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any case involving an offense committed before November 1, 1987”; and

(B) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting “, on or after the date described in subsection (d)” after “upon motion of a defendant”; and

(ii) by striking “after the defendant has fully exhausted all administrative rights to appeal a failure of the Bureau of Prisons to bring a motion on the defendant’s behalf or the lapse of 30 days from the receipt of such a request by the warden of the defendant’s facility, whichever is earlier.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) DATE DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subsection (c)(1)(A), the date described in this subsection is the earlier of—

“(1) the date on which the defendant fully exhausts all administrative rights to appeal a failure of the Bureau of Prisons to bring a motion on the defendant’s behalf; or

“(2) the expiration of the 30-day period beginning on the date on which the defendant submits a request for a reduction in sentence to the warden of the facility in which the defendant is imprisoned, regardless of the status of the request.”.

SEC. 5. TEMPORARY SHORTENING OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXHAUSTION.

Section 12003 of the CARES Act (18 U.S.C. 3621 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) COMPASSIONATE RELEASE.—For purposes of a motion filed under section 3582(c)(1) of title 18, United States Code, during the covered emergency period—

“(1) the 30-day waiting period requirement in section 3582(d)(2) shall be reduced to not more than 10 days; and

“(2) in the case of a defendant who is, according to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, considered to be at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, including because the defendant is 60 years of age or older or has an underlying medical condition, such risk shall be considered to be an extraordinary and compelling reason under subparagraph (A)(i) of such section 3582(c)(1).

“(f) NONVIOLENT ELDERLY OFFENDERS.—For the purpose of a motion filed under subparagraph (D) of section 231(g)(1) of the Second Chance Act of 2007 (34 U.S.C. 60541(g)(1)), during the covered emergency period, the 30-day waiting period requirement clause (ii)(II) of such subparagraph (D) shall be reduced to 10 days.”.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 313. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand online benefit redemption options under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 313

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. ONLINE PORTAL FOR SNAP BENEFIT REDEMPTION.

Section 7(h)(14) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(h)(14)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Subject to subparagraph (B), the” and inserting “The”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) EBT ONLINE REDEMPTION PORTAL.—

“(i) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subparagraph is to expand options for and access to food for eligible households by making the online redemption of program benefits, including the acceptance of EBT cards, more widely available to grocery stores, small retailers, and farmers who face barriers in implementing their own online payment portals.

“(ii) CONTRACTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2021, the Secretary shall award on a competitive basis 1 or more contracts to 1 or more eligible entities described in clause (iii) to develop an online portal, to be known as the ‘EBT Online Redemption Portal’—

“(I) to allow program participants to use online or mobile electronic benefits transactions, including through the acceptance of EBT cards, to purchase program foods from, and make online payments to, authorized program retailers under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

“(II) to facilitate food purchase delivery for program participants using the transactions described in subclause (I).

“(iii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity referred to in clause (ii) is any for-profit or nonprofit entity with demonstrable expertise in the development, operation, or maintenance of electronic payment systems (including systems with advanced security protocols), which may include expertise in benefits management or administration of State systems, as determined by the Secretary.

“(iv) APPLICATION; PORTAL FEATURES.—

“(I) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

“(aa) a description of how the eligible entity plans to implement the requirements described in clause (v); and

“(bb) a beta plan that has been user-tested.

“(II) PORTAL FEATURES.—In awarding a contract to an eligible entity under clause (ii), the Secretary shall give preference to an eligible entity that demonstrates an ability to implement the following features of an EBT Online Redemption Portal:

“(aa) Client-facing technology with a primary preference for mobile device or smartphone application.

“(bb) Fail-safe systems to maintain privacy and online security of data.

“(cc) Ability to redirect a consumer to an existing online platform of a vendor, if applicable.

“(dd) Ability to update as technologies evolve.

“(ee) Ease of operation for program participants, including multilingual functionality.

“(ff) Interoperability with delivery technologies and interfaces.

“(gg) Identification of participating retailers within geographic proximity to the user.

“(hh) Ability to perform single transactions using mixed tender, including a single transaction for eligible food items using an EBT card and noneligible items using another form of payment.

“(ii) Adherence to a comprehensive business continuity and disaster recovery plan—

“(AA) to allow the portal to recover from any interruption of service; and

“(BB) that includes sufficient back-up systems, equipment, facilities, and trained personnel to implement the plan.

“(v) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Online EBT Redemption Portal developed by the eligible entity awarded the contract under clause (ii) shall—

“(aa) enable the integrated processing of an online EBT transaction by providing a platform and facilitating the purchasing interaction between the consumer, retailer, third-party processors (for EBT card processing and the secure online entry of a personal identification number), and delivery vendor, as applicable;

“(bb) to deter fraud, have in place for program participants privacy and security protections, similar to protections provided under existing electronic benefit transfer methods, including entry of a personal identification number in a manner that complies with the guidelines of leading national consensus standards organizations, as determined by the Secretary, for encrypting personal identification number entry;

“(cc) be secure and operate in a manner that maintains program integrity, including food item eligibility;

“(dd) be available in an initial or beta version not later than 120 days after the date on which the eligible entity is awarded the contract;

“(ee) be ready to be fully deployed in all States not later than 180 days after the date described in item (dd);

“(ff) be available for use by any retail food store or wholesale food concern authorized under section 9 to accept and redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program—

“(AA) at no charge beyond a nominal fee that is not more than reasonably necessary to support maintenance of the portal and subject to the approval of the Secretary; and

“(BB) on an application-based and browser-based platform for smartphones and a browser-based online platform for tablets and computers;

“(gg) adhere to commercial standards for service level availability to ensure the viability of the portal and the use of the portal by retail food stores and wholesale food concerns authorized under section 9 to accept and redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and

“(hh) perform ongoing maintenance services and retailer enrollment and termination of enrollment activities to ensure continuous operability of the portal.

“(II) EVALUATION OF BETA VERSION.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of the initial or beta version of the Online EBT Redemption Portal under subclause (I)(dd), including by soliciting feedback from program participants.

“(vi) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of the Expanding SNAP Options Act of 2021, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of activities carried out under this subparagraph.

“(vii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$25,000,000 to provide under the contract described in clause (ii).”

SEC. 3. BROAD ACCEPTANCE OF SNAP BENEFITS THROUGH ONLINE TRANSACTIONS.

Section 7(k) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2016(k)) is amended—

(1) by striking “on-line” each place it appears and inserting “online”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “Subject to paragraph (4), the” and inserting “The”; and

(B) by inserting “in any State” after “stores”; and

(3) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered entity’ means a public or private nonprofit entity.

“(ii) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means a retail food store or wholesale food concern authorized under section 9 to accept and redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

“(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall, on a competitive basis, award 1 or more grants to, or enter into 1 or more cooperative agreements with, 1 or more covered entities to establish a technical assistance center, to be known as the ‘SNAP Online Purchasing Technical Assistance Center’, to provide—

“(i) to State agencies, eligible entities, and program participants information on and technical assistance with, as applicable—

“(I) accepting program benefits through online transactions;

“(II) using the EBT Online Redemption Portal described in subsection (h)(14)(B);

“(III) in the case of State agencies, conducting outreach to eligible entities to ensure that those eligible entities are informed of the technical assistance provided by the center;

“(IV) research, training, and best practices relating to redeeming program benefits through online transactions; and

“(V) facilitating communication between eligible entities, applicable State agencies, and the Department of Agriculture; and

“(ii) to eligible entities direct grants to defray the technological costs of carrying out the activities described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i).

“(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—At least 1 covered entity that receives a grant or enters into a cooperative agreement under subparagraph (B) shall have expertise in providing technical assistance to food retailers operating under a Federal nutrition program.

“(D) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRIORITY.—In providing technical assistance to eligible entities, the SNAP Online Purchasing Technical Assistance Center shall give priority to eligible entities that are small and limited-resource retailers.

“(E) FUNDING.—There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$75,000,000 to carry out this paragraph, to remain available until expended, of which not more than 3 percent may be used by the Secretary for administrative expenses.

“(5) PUBLICATION OF ONLINE VENDORS.—The Secretary shall maintain on the website of the Department of Agriculture a publicly available listing, organized and searchable by region, locality, and State, of all approved retail food stores accepting benefits from recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance, including through online transactions.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 48—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. PETERS submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 48

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate and S. Res. 445 (108th Congress), agreed to October 9, 2004, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2023, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,430,401, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 under this resolution shall not exceed \$11,023,545, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,593,144, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$20,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;