his abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida, by a white supremacist, antiabortion extremist, in the first known instance of murder of an abortion provider on March 10, 1993;

Whereas abortion providers and clinic staff play a critical role in a world where people must be able to make essential and time-sensitive decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures;

Whereas abortion providers and clinic staff help to ensure that all people who can become pregnant can make their own decisions about their bodies and their pregnancies, and support their patients' decisions by treating them with dignity, empathy, compassion, and respect;

Whereas abortion providers and clinic staff play an essential role within the reproductive justice framework, which was created by a group of Black women in 1994, who determined the necessity of adopting a human rights framework that demands every person has the human right to bodily autonomy, which includes if, when, and how to have children, to not have children, and to parent the children they have in safe and sustainable communities;

Whereas people seeking abortion care across the United States also rely on the work of abortion funds and practical support organizations to access abortion care for themselves and their families;

Whereas abortion funds and practical support organizations that rely on donations face increasing demand as people are forced into the vicious cycle of having to travel longer distances, find childcare or lodging, and raise money to obtain an abortion and cover associated costs;

Whereas restrictions on accessing abortion care have far-reaching consequences in both deepening existing inequities caused by structural racism and systemic discrimination in the maternal health care system and worsening health outcomes for pregnant people, people giving birth, and their families;

Whereas abortion care restrictions in some States have forced many abortion clinics to shut down, such that 90 percent of counties in the United States today do not have an abortion provider, the number of independent abortion clinics in the United States has declined by ⅓ since 2012, and efforts to undermine critical supports for patients, including family planning supports, have further threatened the work of abortion providers;

Whereas restricting access to abortion care creates and increases the out-of-pocket costs and logistical burdens that patients face to get care while exposing the remaining abortion providers and staff to increased levels of harassment and politically motivated restrictions;

Whereas the National Abortion Federation's 2020 statistics on violence and disruption found an alarming escalation in incidents of obstruction, vandalism, and trespassing at abortion clinics, with abortion providers reporting an increase in death threats and threats of harm from 92 incidents in 2019 to 200 in 2020;

Whereas Black, indigenous, and other providers and patients of color face heightened levels of threats, harassment, and violence as compared to their white counterparts;

Whereas 2021 marked the worst year for abortion rights since Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), was decided, and the passage and enforcement of restrictions on abortion access and the criminalization of abortion has emboldened antiabortion individuals and groups to continue to harass providers and the patients they care for;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States is now (as of the date of adoption of this resolution) considering Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, 141 S.Ct. 2619 (2021), a case that the justices could use to overturn or severely undermine Roe v. Wade, and at the same time has refused to block Texas's blatantly unconstitutional ban on abortion at approximately 6 weeks of pregnancy, allowing Texas to ban the majority of abortions in the State;

Whereas the ripple effects of Texas's abortion ban have been felt by communities and abortion providers across the country as abortion clinics try to absorb the massive influx of Texas's patients who have the resources to travel and are seeking abortion care elsewhere;

Whereas, should the Supreme Court overturn or severely undermine Roe v. Wade, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming could act as soon as possible to prohibit abortion and criminalize abortion providers;

Whereas Roe v. Wade alone has never been sufficient to ensure that all people, especially Black people, indigenous people, people of color, working class and low-income people, LGBTQIA+ people, people who are immigrants, younger people, people with disabilities, geographically isolated people, and people with multimarginal identities, can get the abortion care they need;

Whereas the unraveling or overturning of Roe v. Wade threatens the ability of abortion providers and the clinic staff who support them to serve their patients; and

Whereas in the face of multifaceted attacks on their work, abortion providers remain an essential and valued part of their communities, providing high-quality, compassionate, and necessary health care, and courageously delivering this care despite pressures, restrictions, political interference, and violent threats to their personal safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes March 10, 2022, as ''Abortion Provider Appreciation Day'' to celebrate the courage, compassion, and high-quality care that abortion providers and clinic staff offer to patients and their families across the country;

(2) lauds communities across the country who are proud to be home to abortion providers and clinic staff;

(3) affirms Congress's commitment to ensuring the safety of abortion providers, their ability to continue providing the essential care their patients need, and the right of their patients to access abortion care no matter where they live, free from fear of violence, criminalization, or stigma; and

(4) declares a vision for a future where access to abortion is liberated from restrictions and bans universally, and affirms Congress's commitment to working toward this goal in partnership with providers, patients, advocates, and their communities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO OBTAIN AND PLACE A MEMORIAL PLAQUE FOR UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE OFFICER WILLIAM F. EVANS AT THE NORTH SECURITY KIOSK OF THE CAPITOL

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 539, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 539) directing the Architect of the Capitol to obtain and place a memorial plaque for United States Capitol Police Officer William F. Evans at the north security kiosk of the Capitol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CASEY. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 539) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

SOUTH FLORIDA CLEAN COASTAL WATERS ACT OF 2021

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 203, S. 66.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 66) to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I am proud to be a champion of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act—or HABHRCA—program. The program was first created in 1998 to help address harmful algal blooms in water bodies across the country. Congress recognized the devastating impact of harmful algal blooms, both ecologically and economically, and the importance of providing resources to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to advance scientific understanding of harmful algal blooms, as well as the ability to detect, monitor, assess, and predict bloom events.

In 2014 and again in 2018, I worked with then-Senator Bill Nelson to reauthorize the program in a bipartisan way. And in the 2014 legislation, I worked to ensure that freshwater bodies, specifically the Great Lakes, were a focus for the program for the first time. Since then, I have worked to secure funding for the HABHRCA program through the annual appropriations process.

I am pleased to report that, today, NOAA's work through the HABHRCA program is being used by my constituents and others across the Great Lakes basin. For example, I hear from the fishing and charter boat industries that they rely on NOAA's biweekly forecasts to monitor the location of the blooms so they know what areas of the lake to avoid in order to continue operating their tourism and fishing businesses.

It also helps our drinking water systems prevent contamination in drinking water because they are able to anticipate additional treatment needs if the location of the bloom is near a water intake valve. This will help prevent crises similar to the 2014 water crisis in Toledo, OH, in which nearly half a million people lost access to safe drinking water because a harmful algal bloom contaminated the city's water supply.

As cochair of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, I am committed to ensuring our Great Lakes communities have the resources they need to create jobs and protect the water quality and health of the lakes.

My colleague from Florida, Senator Rubio, has a bill that would amend the HABHRCA program to require NOAA to conduct harmful algal bloom and hypoxia work specifically for the South Florida ecosystem. I am supportive of this legislation and of efforts to address harmful algal blooms across the country, so long as it does not take away or divert resources that are used in the Great Lakes.

To that end, I ask for unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from NOAA Administrator Spinrad committing that the work done in South Florida, such as would be the case with passage of Senator RUBIO's legislation, S. 66, the South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act, would have no impact on the resources and work currently being conducted to support the Great Lakes.

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

MARCH 3, 2022.

Hon. ROBERT PORTMAN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR PORTMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of maintaining harmful algal bloom (HAB) and hypoxia research and monitoring activities in the Great Lakes region. I appreciate the discussion that you and I had about this issue last week.

As you know, NOAA has monitored and forecast cyanobacteria bloom location and concentration in Lake Erie since 2009. The early seasonal ''rolling'' outlook beginning in May estimates bloom severity based on measurements of phosphorous loading from the Maumee River combined with long-range forecasts and historical records. The Lake Erie HAB Seasonal Forecast issued in early summer allows coastal managers, lake users, and drinking water facility operators to make informed decisions based on the potential severity of the bloom. In addition, the Lake Erie HAB forecast issued twice a week during bloom season (July–October) provides the current bloom extent and 5-day outlooks of where the bloom will travel and what concentrations are likely to be seen, allowing managers to determine whether to take preventive actions.

As we discussed, NOAA is committed to continuing this important work and to pursuing improvements to Lake Erie HAB detection, monitoring, and forecasting to keep communities in the Great Lakes region safe. Additional proposals to complete HABs work in the South Florida ecosystem will not impact the resources necessary for Great Lakes HABs work through the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998. The President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request includes an increase for NOAA's Coastal Science and Assessment programs that, if appropriated, will support these efforts and build capacity in other areas.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to our continued partnership. If you have further questions, please contact Makeda Okolo, Director of NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Sincerely,

DR. RICHARD W. SPINRAD,
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator.

Mr. CASEY. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 66) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 66

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 ''South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–383; 33 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 605 through 609 as sections 606 through 610, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 604 the following:

''SEC. 605. SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA.

''(a) SOUTH FLORIDA.—In this section, the term 'South Florida' means—

''(1) all lands and waters within the administrative boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District;

''(2) regional coastal waters, including Biscayne Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, Florida Bay, Indian River Lagoon, and St. Lucie River Estuary; and

''(3) the Florida Reef Tract.

''(b) INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) INTERIM INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of the South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2021, the Task Force, in accordance with the authority under section 603, shall complete and submit to Congress and the President an interim integrated assessment.

''(2) FINALIZED INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act of 2021, the Task Force shall finalize, and submit to Congress and the President, the interim integrated assessment required by paragraph (1).

''(3) CONTENTS OF INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT.—The integrated assessment required by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall examine the causes, consequences, and potential approaches to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and the status of, and gaps within, current harmful algal bloom and hypoxia research, monitoring, management, prevention, response, and control activities that directly affect the region by—