

the Framework, and the United Nations Special Envoy, MONUSCO, and relevant international bodies and governments to develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive peace process for the region;

(3) notes that the adoption of the Framework, the appointment of Mary Robinson as United Nations Special Envoy to the Great Lakes, and the expanded MONUSCO mandate provide an opportunity to make meaningful and sustained progress toward ending the recurrent cycles of violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in eastern Congo;

(4) urges the signatories of the Framework and the international community to engage and consult with representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and civil society representatives engaged in the ongoing effort to convene an inclusive national forum and dialogue;

(5) urges the President to appoint a Special Envoy to the Great Lakes in the near-term in order to represent the United States in international and regional efforts to end the conflict and secure sustainable peace, stability, and safety for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by—

(A) working with United Nations Special Envoy Mary Robinson and the broader international community to promote a transparent and inclusive process to implement the regional and national commitments under the Framework, including the development of clear benchmarks for progress and appropriate follow-on measures;

(B) strengthening international efforts to mobilize and support justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence and other human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(C) expanding efforts to develop conflict-free and responsible mining and supply chains for the region's vast mineral resources, in coordination with other government, private industry, and international and local organizations;

(D) coordinating with international and regional partners to expand unhindered access to life-saving humanitarian assistance to populations in need, particularly displaced persons and conflict-affected communities;

(E) pressing for fulfillment of the commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as other regional actors, to ending the threat posed by the M23, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), and other armed groups in the Great Lakes region, and to facilitate enhanced coordination of regional efforts to counter these groups; and

(F) mobilizing and facilitating United States and international support for electoral reforms in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the goal of encouraging free, fair, and credible provincial and local elections in the near-term, and presidential elections in 2016;

(6) calls on the President to support the creation of a World Bank Fund for the Great Lakes Region, as part of a coordinated international investment and development strategy aimed at deepening regional economic integration and stability and leveraging reform;

(7) calls on the President, in close coordination with international and regional partners, to work with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop and implement recommendations to improve accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including by considering imposition of sanctions authorized under section 1284 of the National Defense Authorization

Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note);

(8) calls on governments of the Great Lakes region of Africa to immediately halt and prevent any and all forms of support to non-state armed groups, including support provided by individuals independent of government policy;

(9) calls on all relevant nations, including destination and transit countries, to increase cooperation on ending the illicit trade in conflict minerals, wildlife, and wildlife parts, which continues to fuel and fund violence and to deprive citizens of economic opportunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the broader region;

(10) calls on the signatories of the Framework to cooperate in the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for violating international humanitarian law and for serious human rights violations, including gender-based violence;

(11) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to engage in meaningful and inclusive electoral reforms, prepare and hold impartially administered local and provincial elections as soon as technically possible, continue to participate in ongoing efforts to provide a platform for inclusive dialogue within the Democratic Republic of the Congo to address critical internal political issues, and strengthen processes of state institution building;

(12) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in coordination with the international community, to undertake significant security sector reform, which is a necessary component for lasting stability, and renewed disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) efforts that ensure that any rebel troops, especially commanders, responsible for human rights violations are held accountable and not reintegrated into the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC); and

(13) urges the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to improve efforts to protect civilians from armed groups, in cooperation with MONUSCO and the African Union's Regional Cooperation Initiative on the LRA.

SENATE RESOLUTION 145—PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2013 TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FACED BY MINORITY POPULATIONS SUCH AS AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES, ASIANS, BLACKS OR AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS OR LATINOS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 145

Whereas in 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services released the "National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity" and the "Disparities action Plan" to reduce health care disparities in the United States;

Whereas a recent analysis estimates that the economy of the United States loses an estimated \$309,000,000,000 a year due to the direct and indirect costs of health disparities;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified 6 main cat-

egories in which racial and ethnic minorities experience the most disparate access to health care and health outcomes, including infant mortality, cancer screening and management, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV and AIDS infection, and immunizations;

Whereas African-American women are more than twice as likely to die of cervical cancer than White women and are more likely to die of breast cancer than women of any other racial or ethnic group;

Whereas the rate of death from coronary heart disease is 30 percent higher among African Americans than among Whites;

Whereas the death rate from stroke is 50 percent higher among African Americans than among Whites;

Whereas in 2012, as compared to non-Hispanic Whites living in Hawaii, Native Hawaiians had more than twice the rate of medically-diagnosed diabetes and were 5.7 times more likely to die of diabetes;

Whereas compared to non-Hispanic White men, African American men are 9.5 times more likely to die of AIDS and Hispanic men are 2.5 times more likely to die of AIDS;

Whereas in 2010, 84 percent of children born with HIV infection belonged to minority groups;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has identified diseases of the heart, malignant neoplasm, unintentional injuries, diabetes, and cerebrovascular disease as some of the leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives die at higher rates than other people in the United States from tuberculosis, diabetes, unintentional injuries, and suicide; and

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life expectancy that is 5.2 years shorter than the life expectancy of the overall population of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2013 to bring attention to the severe health disparities faced by minority populations such as American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2013, AS "NATIONAL POLICE WEEK"

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BURR, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 146

Whereas, in 1962, John Fitzgerald Kennedy proclaimed May 15 to be "Peace Officers Memorial Day", and designated the calendar week in which May 15 falls as "National Police Week";

Whereas law enforcement officers are charged with pursuing justice and protecting communities in the United States;

Whereas State and local police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers across the United States serve with dignity and integrity;

Whereas law enforcement officers serve as first responders to natural disasters such as Hurricane Isaac and Hurricane Sandy;

Whereas law enforcement officers serve as first responders to terrorist attacks such as