

millions of American mothers whose essential role in all of our lives cannot be overstated.

The legislation I am introducing today would recognize Mother's Day by authorizing the Treasury to mint a commemorative Mother's Day coin. Profits generated from the sale of these coins would be donated to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the National Osteoporosis Foundation. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has advanced cures for catastrophic pediatric diseases through research and treatment; and the National Osteoporosis Foundation is considered our Nation's leading voluntary health organization.

In the U.S. alone, 10 million people have osteoporosis, and 80 percent of those who suffer from this disease are women. This legislation not only honors our nation's mothers, but also helps to raise funds to fight a serious disease that disproportionately impacts women. Thousands of mothers and their children have benefited from the efforts of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the National Osteoporosis Foundation, and they are well-deserving of our support. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation to honor every mother in our country.

I can think of no better way to celebrate Mother's Day than by helping to promote the health of American mothers and their children.

By Mr. REED:

S. 2312. A bill to amend titles 5, 10, and 32, United States Code, to eliminate inequities in the treatment of National Guard technicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I introduce the National Guard Technician Equity Act to address inconsistencies in the dual-status technician program.

Over 48,000 National Guard dual-status technicians serve our nation. They are a distinct group of workers—as civilians, they work for the reserve components, performing administrative duties, providing training, and maintaining and repairing equipment. However, as a condition of their civilian position, they are also required to maintain military status—attending weekend drills and annual training, deploying overseas, and responding to domestic disasters and emergencies—thereby creating their “dual-status.”

As a result, dual-status technicians are caught between the provisions that govern the Federal civilian workforce and the military in numerous ways. First, under existing law, a dual-status technician who is no longer fit for military duty must be fired from their technician position, even if they are still fully capable of performing their civilian duties. This bill would give technicians the option of remaining in their civilian position if they have 20 years of service as a dual-status technician, so that the experience and skills

of these dedicated employees will not be lost.

Second, dual-status technicians do not have the same appeal rights as most other Federal employees, including those civilians in other Department of Defense positions. Federal employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement have the right to file a grievance and proceed to arbitration, or file a case with the Merit Systems Protection Board, MSPB. Currently, dual-status technicians may appeal to the Adjutant General in their state, but not to any neutral third party. This bill would allow them to also appeal to the MSPB for grievances unrelated to their military service.

Third, most reserve component members are able to obtain health care coverage through the TRICARE Reserve Select program. However, dual-status technicians are ineligible, despite their mandatory military status and reserve service, because they can participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Program, FEHBP. FEHBP plans can be more expensive than TRICARE Reserve Select, thereby adding costs and limiting health care options for these Guard technicians. My legislation simply calls for the Government Accountability Office to study the feasibility of converting the coverage for National Guard dual-status technicians from FEHBP to TRICARE Reserve Select.

The National Guard Technician Equity Act also allows technicians to receive overtime pay and requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the adequacy of leave time provided to Federal employees who are members of the National Guard for required military training.

I urge my colleagues to support and cosponsor the National Guard Technician Equity Act, and join me in pressing for inclusion of provisions of this bill in the National Defense Authorization Act.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 440—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEACHERS TO THE CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 440

Whereas education and knowledge are the foundation of the current and future strength of the United States;

Whereas teachers and other educators deserve the respect of their students and communities for their selfless dedication to community service and the future of the children of the United States;

Whereas the purpose of “National Teacher Day”, which will be observed on May 6, 2014, is to raise public awareness of the

unquantifiable contributions teachers make to society and to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession; and

Whereas students, schools, communities, and a number of organizations representing educators are hosting teacher appreciation events in recognition of National Teacher Day: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions of teachers and other educators to the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States; and

(2) expresses gratitude for the work done by teachers and educators and encourages students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in teacher appreciation events on National Teacher Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 441—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 1 THROUGH MAY 7, 2014, AS “NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT WEEK”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 441

Whereas according to the 2012 Shape of the Nation Report, there has been a dramatic increase in obesity in the United States over the last 20 years, and obesity rates are high;

Whereas over 30 percent of children in the United States are overweight or obese;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 48 percent of high school students do not attend physical education classes in an average week;

Whereas according to Department of Health and Human Services Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 17 should engage in 60 minutes or more of physical activity daily, including aerobic, muscle strengthening, and bone strengthening exercises;

Whereas regular physical activity is necessary to support normal and healthy growth in children and is essential to the continued health and well-being of children; and

Whereas Congress strongly supports efforts to increase physical activity and participation of children and youth in sports: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 1 through May 7, 2014, as “National Physical Education and Sport Week”;

(2) recognizes National Physical Education and Sport Week and the central role of physical education and sports in creating a healthy lifestyle for all children and youth;

(3) supports the implementation of local school wellness policies (as that term is described in section 9A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758b)) that include ambitious goals for physical education, physical activity, and other activities that address the childhood obesity epidemic and promote child wellness; and

(4) encourages schools to offer physical education classes to students and work with community partners to provide opportunities and safe spaces for physical activities before and after school and during the summer months for all children and youth.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3045. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him