

Whereas the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies estimated in 2006 that the annual societal economic cost associated with preterm birth in the United States was \$26,200,000,000;

Whereas many preterm births can be prevented through evidence-based public health programs focused on reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, inadequate birth spacing, and early elective deliveries; and

Whereas, in the United States and around the world, November is recognized as Prematurity Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition of Prematurity Awareness Month;

(2) supports efforts at home and abroad—

(A) to reduce the impact of preterm births by improving maternal health during and after pregnancy; and

(B) to advance the care and treatment of infants born preterm;

(3) honors individuals working domestically and internationally to reduce preterm births; and

(4) expresses the intent of the Senate to promote evidence-based prevention interventions to prevent preterm birth and improve outcomes for affected infants.

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH, COMMENDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM ADVOCATES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS, CRISIS HOTLINE STAFF, AND FIRST RESPONDERS SERVING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR THEIR COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT OF SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PROVIDE SAFETY FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND HOLD PERPETRATORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACCOUNTABLE

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 320

Whereas, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey—

(1) up to 12,000,000 individuals in the United States report experiencing intimate partner violence, including physical violence, rape, or stalking; and

(2) approximately 1 in 5 women in the United States and up to 1 in 7 men in the United States have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetimes;

Whereas, on average, 3 women in the United States are killed each day by a current or former intimate partner, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics;

Whereas domestic violence can affect anyone, but women aged 18 to 34 typically experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence;

Whereas most female victims of intimate partner violence have been victimized by the same offender previously;

Whereas domestic violence is cited as a significant factor in homelessness among families;

Whereas millions of children are exposed to domestic violence each year;

Whereas research shows that boys who are exposed to domestic violence in their households are more likely to become perpetrators of intimate partner violence;

Whereas victims of domestic violence experience immediate and long-term negative outcomes, including detrimental effects on mental and physical health;

Whereas victims of domestic violence may lose several days of paid work each year and may lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from domestic violence;

Whereas crisis hotlines serving domestic violence victims operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and offer important crisis intervention services, support services, information, and referrals for victims;

Whereas staff and volunteers of domestic violence shelters and programs in the United States, in cooperation with 56 State and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, serve—

(1) thousands of adults and children each day; and

(2) 1,000,000 adults and children each year;

Whereas, according to a 2016 survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 72,959 domestic violence victims were served by domestic violence shelters and programs around the United States in a single day;

Whereas law enforcement officers in the United States put their lives at risk each day by responding to incidents of domestic violence, which can be among the most volatile and deadly calls;

Whereas Congress first demonstrated a significant commitment to supporting victims of domestic violence with the enactment of the landmark Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.);

Whereas Congress has remained committed to protecting survivors of all forms of domestic violence and sexual abuse by making Federal funding available to support the activities that are authorized under—

(1) the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.); and

(2) the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291 et seq.);

Whereas there is a need to continue to support programs and activities aimed at domestic violence intervention and domestic violence prevention in the United States; and

Whereas individuals and organizations that are dedicated to preventing and ending domestic violence should be recognized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month”; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should—

(A) continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and the corresponding devastating effects of domestic violence on survivors, families, and communities; and

(B) pledge continued support for programs designed—

(i) to assist survivors;

(ii) to hold perpetrators accountable; and

(iii) to bring an end to domestic violence.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to remind my colleagues that we annually commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. This is a time when we’re called to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic violence.

As noted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, domestic violence is a crime that thrives when we remain silent. That’s why the Senate today passed the resolution that I recently introduced with Senator FEINSTEIN to commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As stated in our resolution, Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States. We also should pledge our continued support for programs designed to assist survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and bring an end to domestic violence.

Congress has made support to survivors a national priority for over three decades, through the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act, the Victims of Crime Act, and other Federal laws. Through the enactment of laws criminalizing domestic violence at the State and local level, we’ve also sent a strong signal to abusers that domestic violence is not a “private” matter.

We’ve come a long way, but we still have much work to do on this front. Even now, domestic violence affects millions in the United States, including women, men, and children of every age and socio-economic status. About one in five women will at some point in their lifetime become a victim of this crime, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

I applaud the many individuals and organizations in Iowa and elsewhere around the Nation that work around the clock to respond to victims in crisis. They include the hotline personnel who provide support 365 days a year. They include the staff and volunteers at shelters, who provide safe havens for those escaping abuse. They include the advocates who champion survivors’ interests at the State and Federal levels. Last, but certainly not least, they include the first responders who compassionately respond to victims in crisis.

We applaud their continued service and we continue to support the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I have 8 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 1,

2017, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, and Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

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 Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10 a.m., to vote on the following nominations: David J. Ryder, of New Jersey, to be Director of the Mint, Department of the Treasury, and Hester Maria Peirce, of Ohio, and Robert J. Jackson, Jr., of New York, both to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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 Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Scott Garrett, of New Jersey, to be President, Kimberly A. Reed, of West Virginia, to be First Vice President, Mark L. Greenblatt, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, and Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, Judith Delzoppo Pryor, of Ohio, and Claudia Slacik, of New York, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors, all of the Export-Import Bank.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Irwin Steven Goldstein, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, Rebecca Eliza Gonzales, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Lisa A. Johnson, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia, James Randolph Evans, of Georgia, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, and Sean P. Lawler, of Maryland, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, all of the Department of State.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Leonard Steven Grasz, of Nebraska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, Terry A. Doughty, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Terry Fitzgerald Moorner, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, and Mark Saalfeld Norris, Sr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-628 to conduct a hearing entitled "Building Tribal economies: Modernizing tax policies that work for Indian country."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., in room SH-216 to conduct a hearing entitled "Social Media Influence in the 2016 U.S. Elections."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MULTILATERAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate Wednesday, November 1, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Isamar Chavez, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 320, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 320) supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, commending domestic violence victim advocates, domestic violence victim service providers, crisis hotline staff, and first responders serving victims of domestic violence for their compassionate support of survivors of domestic violence, and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should continue to support efforts to end domestic violence, provide safety for victims of domestic violence and their families, and hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 320) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, November 2; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Eid nomination under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:37 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 2, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL D. GRIFFIN, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ALAN F. ESTEVEZ.

RANDALL G. SCHRIVER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE DAVID B. SHEAR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOEL DANIES, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE GABONESE REPUBLIC, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DOUGLAS WEBSTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE LAWRENCE A. WARDER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

SCOTT A. MUGNO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE DAVID MORRIS MICHAELS.

THE JUDICIARY

JAMES R. SWEENEY II, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA, VICE SARAH EVANS BARKER, RETIRED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

LISA-FELICIA AFI AKORLI, OF ARIZONA
JAMES STEVEN ALVARADO, OF VIRGINIA
BRITTANY NICOLE ANKERMAN, OF VIRGINIA
JUAN JOSE APARICIO, OF CALIFORNIA
ASHLE MARIE AROSTEGUI, OF FLORIDA
MARC N. BACHARACH, OF VIRGINIA
WILLIAM HUTCHESON BAKSI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DANIELLE PAULINE BARCHETTI, OF VIRGINIA
GEORGIOS BARDIS, OF MARYLAND
ERIC TOWNSEND BARKER, OF VIRGINIA
KATHLEEN V. BARRAMEDA, OF VIRGINIA