

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 is 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,