

Whereas April 2016 is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, improvement in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault, and the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge survivors of sexual assault and to commend the volunteers and professionals who assist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to survivors of sexual assault, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual assault are held accountable; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 453—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2016, AS “DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 453

Whereas each year, people in many countries throughout the world, and especially in the Western Hemisphere, celebrate Día de los Niños, or Day of the Children, on April 30th in recognition and celebration of the future of their country—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States, and the well-being of children remains one of the top priorities of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States must nurture and invest in children to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the spirit of the United States;

Whereas in 2014, the Census Bureau estimated that approximately 17,900,000 of the nearly 55,400,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States are children under 18 years of age, representing $\frac{1}{3}$ of the total Hispanic population residing in the United States and roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total population of children in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic Americans, the youngest and largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States, celebrate the tradition of honoring their children on Día de los Niños and wish to share this custom with all people of the United States;

Whereas the United States becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse, the people of the United States must strive to create opportunities that provide dignity and upward mobility for all children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and children are responsible for passing on family values, morality, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education is most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas the latest data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as “NAEP”) indicates that Latino students continue to score lower than the national average on reading assessments conducted at the elementary school, middle school, and high school levels—an achievement gap that has persisted for decades;

Whereas the most recent data by NAEP demonstrates that 81 percent of Latino fourth graders in public schools are not proficient in reading;

Whereas Latino authors and Latino protagonists remain underrepresented in literature for children, and less than 3 percent of books for children are written by Latino authors, illustrated by Latino book creators, or feature significant Latino cultural content, even though $\frac{1}{4}$ of all public school children are Latino;

Whereas research has shown that culturally relevant literature can increase student engagement and reading comprehension, yet some Latino students may go their entire educational experience without seeing themselves portrayed positively in the books that they read and the stories that they hear;

Whereas increasing the number and proportion of multicultural authors in literature for children elevates the voices of the growing diverse communities in the United States and can serve as an effective strategy for closing the reading proficiency achievement gap;

Whereas addressing the widening disparities that still exist among children is of paramount importance to the economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm the significance of family, education, and community among the people of the United States;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their futures, articulate their aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the United States to declare April 30, 2016, as Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans, a day to bring together Latinos and communities across the United States to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society and invest in future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2016, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all people;

(B) are positive, uplifting, and help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about each other's cultures and share ideas;

(D) include all family members, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within families, which will enable children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families with in a community to build relationships; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence and to find the inner strength, will, and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

SENATE RESOLUTION 454—RECOGNIZING THE TRANSPORTATION COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. CAPITO submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 454

Whereas the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program (referred to in this preamble as “TRANSCAER”) is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident;

Whereas TRANSCAER was founded in 1986; Whereas TRANSCAER members consist of—

(1) volunteer representatives from the chemical manufacturing, transportation, distribution, and emergency response industries;

(2) volunteer representatives from industry associations;

(3) volunteer personnel of those industries and industry associations; and

(4) government representatives;

Whereas TRANSCAER offers hundreds of training events each year;

Whereas TRANSCAER offered training to tens of thousands of responders between 1986 and 2016;

Whereas TRANSCAER is a unified industry initiative that promotes the safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials;

Whereas TRANSCAER aids community emergency response planning for hazardous material transportation incidents;

Whereas TRANSCAER builds strong relationships and trust with communities located along transportation routes, and those relationships and trust could help to ensure that an incident is handled safely, appropriately, and efficiently; and

Whereas TRANSCAER demonstrates the continuing commitment of chemical manufacturers and transporters to the safe transportation of hazardous materials: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response program (commonly referred to as “TRANSCAER”) on its 30th anniversary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs.