

health care, information technology, transportation, and business management and administration.

For many people seeking a job, attending a community college is the most affordable and accessible pathway to higher paying employment opportunities. In Virginia, we have 23 community colleges that serve an estimated 400,000 people across the State, providing them opportunities to earn an associate's degree, certifications or licensures in some of the most cutting-edge and in-demand fields in our workforce. The impact of community colleges nationwide is even greater, and our rapidly changing economy demands increased investment in the pathways these institutions provide to keep up with changing skill demands.

Today, I am proud to introduce the Assisting Community Colleges in Educating Skilled Students (ACCESS) to Careers Act with Senator YOUNG. Inspired by the success of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program, this bill provides grants to states and community colleges to scale evidence-based strategies that will help prepare our students with the skills necessary to succeed in our in-demand industry sectors and occupations. These grants can be used to expand dual enrollment, work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeships, and other pathways to best meet the skill needs of students and employers in our evolving workforce. The bill also emphasizes the importance of student services to ensure that students have the support they need to complete their programs.

The bill also allows grants to be used for developing partnerships between community colleges and other private and public sector entities, creating innovative career pathways directly between two-year institutions and employers. In Virginia, we've already started to see the success of these community college partnerships as part of a strategy to address the growing workforce shortages in rural areas and in-demand industries.

When we invest in our community colleges, they become hubs of innovation, finding pathways to train our next generation in the skills our rapidly evolving workforce needs. The ACCESS to Careers Act represents a necessary step to take the evidence-based innovations we've seen on the local level to scale in order to fill jobs in high-needs industries. I strongly encourage my colleagues in the Senate to consider this commonsense, bipartisan legislation as we move towards reauthorizing the Higher Education Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 12, 2020, AS “DARWIN DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE TO THE BETTERMENT OF HUMANITY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 495

Whereas Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution by natural selection, which provides humanity with a logical and intellectually compelling explanation for the diversity of life on Earth;

Whereas the validity of the theory of evolution by natural selection is strongly supported by the monumental amount of scientific evidence Charles Darwin compiled to support the theory and the modern understanding of the science of genetics;

Whereas the human curiosity and ingenuity exemplified by Charles Darwin have promoted new scientific discoveries that have helped humanity solve many problems and improve living conditions;

Whereas the advancement of science must be protected from individuals unconcerned with the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change;

Whereas the teaching of creationism in some public schools compromises the scientific and academic integrity of the education systems of the United States;

Whereas Charles Darwin is a worthy symbol of scientific advancement on whom to focus and around whom to build a global celebration of science and humanity intended to promote a common bond among all the people of the Earth; and

Whereas February 12, 2020, is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 1809 and is an appropriate date to designate as “Darwin Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 12, 2020, as “Darwin Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of science to the betterment of humanity; and

(3) recognizes Charles Darwin as a worthy symbol for celebrating science, the achievements of reason, and the advancement of human knowledge.

SENATE RESOLUTION 496—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 16, 2020, AS “PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC DAY” AND EXPRESSING DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC STATIONS IN SERVING LISTENERS, MUSICIANS, AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 496

Whereas more than 20,000,000 listeners in the United States tune in weekly to local public radio stations to discover, learn about, and enjoy music selections, artists, and genres that are, in many cases, available only on public radio;

Whereas approximately 734 public radio music stations serve rural and urban communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and Guam;

Whereas public radio music stations—

(1) are noncommercial, nonprofit, public service radio stations;

(2) are locally staffed and programmed; and

(3) share the core values of music discovery, curation, preservation, performance, and community;

Whereas public radio music stations celebrate a broad collection of sounds and styles, including jazz, blues, classical, Americana, alternative, folk, roots, bluegrass, and other regional and eclectic genres;

Whereas 97 percent of over-the-air broadcasts of classical music in the United States come from local public radio stations;

Whereas public radio music stations are an essential and indispensable force in—

(1) sustaining music and performers;

(2) developing artists and audiences; and

(3) educating and enriching the communities in which the stations are located;

Whereas knowledgeable local hosts, live announcers, and expert curation on public radio music stations have a proven track record of—

(1) helping audiences discover new and emerging musicians; and

(2) providing deep explorations into the history and cultural impact of music;

Whereas public radio music stations tailor their content and programming—

(1) to reflect regional tastes and talent; and

(2) to make music more accessible through local performances, studio sessions, artist interviews, music journalism, and local news and performance information;

Whereas public radio music stations offer audiences, musicians, and artists numerous platforms for innovative music programming on air, online, on video, on stage, and on-the-go;

Whereas the emphasis that public radio stations place on music presentation enables new, emerging, and essential artists to construct deep and lasting relationships with audiences, adding to the journey of lifelong music enjoyment;

Whereas public radio music stations serve as cultural hubs in the communities in which those stations are located by providing a place for listeners of diverse backgrounds and ages to come together for the shared thrill of music;

Whereas the commitment of public radio to music and education brings the instruments and experience of music to schools, hospitals, and other places in the public square to ensure wide access to music;

Whereas the varied and unique activities and attributes of public radio music stations—

(1) foster community among music lovers;

(2) build support for local artists and the local music economy; and

(3) develop the next generation of musicians and audiences;

Whereas the core values of public radio music stations and the collective commitment of those stations to community service, education, and cultural support separates public radio music stations from other music providers; and

Whereas April 16, 2020, would be an appropriate day to designate as “Public Radio Music Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 16, 2020, as “Public Radio Music Day”; and

(2) expresses deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities across the United States.