

(1) designates March 2 through March 8, 2020, as “Women of the Aviation Workforce Week”;

(2) celebrates the aviation workforce of the United States;

(3) encourages educational and training institutions to recruit women to join the aviation workforce;

(4) encourages employers in the aviation industry to hire a diverse workforce, including women, veterans, and other underrepresented individuals; and

(5) commits to—

(A) raising awareness about the gender gap in the air and space industry; and

(B) taking legislative actions to address the gender gap in science, technology, engineering, and math (commonly known as “STEM”) fields.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 535—DESIGNATING MARCH 5, 2020, AS “NATIONAL ‘SLAM THE SCAM’ DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS, TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPROVEMENT OF PROTECTIONS FROM GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. MCSALLY, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 535

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States are targeted by scams each year, including government imposter scams, such as the Social Security impersonation scam and the Internal Revenue Service impersonation scam, sweepstakes scams, romance scams, computer tech support scams, grandparent scams, debt scams, home improvement scams, fraudulent investment schemes, and identity theft;

Whereas, since 2013, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 9,500 complaints from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico reporting possible scams;

Whereas government imposter scams involve criminals contacting individuals in the United States and impersonating employees of government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, to demand payment or personal information, which defrauds individuals of the United States and erodes trust in the government agencies that the criminals impersonate;

Whereas, since 2014, fraud from government imposter scams has been the top fraud type reported to the Federal Trade Commission;

Whereas there were nearly 390,000 government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission in 2019;

Whereas the Federal Trade Commission has estimated that victims lost nearly \$153,000,000 to government imposter scams in 2019;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2018, older adults reported larger median individual losses as a result of government imposter scams than younger adults;

Whereas, in 2019, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate received more than 5 times the number of

Social Security impersonation scam complaints than that hotline received in 2018;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission—

(1) individuals in the United States reported losing nearly \$38,000,000 to the Social Security impersonation scam in 2019; and

(2) in 2018, the Social Security impersonation scam contributed to an increase from 2017 in median financial losses reported by older individuals of the United States; and

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, government imposter scams help to thwart government imposter scammers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 5, 2020, as “National ‘Slam the Scam’ Day”;

(2) recognizes National “Slam the Scam” Day as an opportunity to raise awareness about scams that involve individuals impersonating government employees by mail, on the phone, or online (referred to in this resolving clause as “government imposter scams”);

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing government imposter scams from targeting the people of the United States; and

(B) educating the people of the United States about government imposter scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies to prevent government imposter scams; and

(B) the improvement of measures to protect the people of the United States from government imposter scams;

(5) encourages members of the public to—

(A) hang up on calls from individuals falsely claiming to represent government agencies;

(B) share information about government imposter scams with family and friends; and

(C) report government imposter scams to—

(i) the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration;

(ii) the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration; or

(iii) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(6) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations who work tirelessly to fight against government imposter scams.

Mrs. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to recognize today, March 5, as National “Slam the Scam” Day. I first want to thank my colleague from Arizona, Senator SINEMA, for working with me on a Senate resolution designating today as National “Slam the Scam” Day. This resolution will help raise awareness of Government imposter scams with a single message: hang up and tell someone.

In Government imposter scams, criminals claim to be from Government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, and call Americans demanding payment or personal information.

These scams look real because they often begin with an unsolicited robocall using a spoofed caller ID, showing the name of the Government agency they are pretending to be. In reality, the Government would never call to threaten you or demand payment using gift cards, cash, wire transfers, or internet cryptocurrency.

Government imposter scams have been the number one complaint re-

ported to the Aging Committee’s Fraud Hotline since its creation in 2013. Over the last two years, nearly 2,000 Maine consumers reported Government imposter scams to the Federal Trade Commission, with total losses of more than \$700,000.

Last year, the top reported scam to the Fraud Hotline, which the Aging Committee featured in our first hearing of the year, was the Social Security Administration impersonation scam. Americans reported losing nearly \$38 million to this scam in 2019 alone, according to the Federal Trade Commission. That undoubtedly is the tip of the iceberg.

Scammers are ruthlessly targeting Americans, and particularly older Americans, across the country. In 2016, Philip Hatch, an 81-year Navy veteran from Maine, lost \$8,000 of his hard-earned savings to a Government impersonation scam. These scammers first posed as IRS agents and then impersonated the Portland Police Department.

Just last year, a Maine senior reported a call from someone claiming to work for the Social Security Administration. The caller told him that his Social Security number matched a credit card used to rent a car found on the Texas border filled with drugs and blood. The caller provided an FBI ID number and correctly identified when my constituent had recently visited Texas on business. When prompted by the scammer, he confirmed his date of birth and Social Security number.

These pernicious scams not only steal the savings of hardworking Americans and threaten to compromise their personal information; they also erode public trust and make it more difficult for Federal, State, and local government agencies to fulfill their missions.

The Aging Committee, which I chair, has held 25 hearings on scams over the past seven years, and we have examined Government imposter scams from a number of angles. Public awareness can help to stop these scams from the start.

I urge my colleagues to join me in marking today as National “Slam the Scam” Day by supporting our resolution. Let’s work together to hang up on these Government imposters and put them out of business once and for all. Let’s slam these scams.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 1514. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1407 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

SA 1515. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1516. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the