

SENATE RESOLUTION 56—DESIGNATING JANUARY 2015 AS “NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH”

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 56

Whereas America's Blood Centers, AABB, and the American Red Cross unite to designate January 2015 as “National Blood Donor Month”;

Whereas donating 1 unit of blood helps to save as many as 3 lives;

Whereas blood donors are an integral part of the health system and national public health preparedness initiatives in the United States;

Whereas blood and blood products are critical national resources and vital public health assets that must be readily available at all times;

Whereas every 2 seconds, a person in the United States needs blood for lifesaving treatment in an emergency or a disaster, a routine surgery, a blood transfusion to help treat a serious disease like cancer, or an organ or bone marrow transplant;

Whereas 1 in 7 patients who enter a hospital in the United States needs blood;

Whereas more than 20,000,000 blood components are used in transfusions every year in the United States;

Whereas more than 39,000 units of blood are needed each day in the United States to maintain a safe and adequate blood supply;

Whereas 9,200,000 donors give blood each year in the United States;

Whereas approximately 38 percent of the United States population is eligible to give blood, but less than 10 percent of the eligible population donates blood on an annual basis;

Whereas blood transfusions require generous and altruistic volunteer donors;

Whereas it is vital that the blood donation policies, including donor deferral policies, in the United States keep pace with medical science to ensure that the United States has a robust, eligible population of donors to maintain a safe and adequate blood supply; and

Whereas America's Blood Centers, AABB, and the American Red Cross support and perform critical services collecting, processing, and distributing lifesaving blood and blood products to hospitals and health providers, and are instrumental in ensuring the safety of the blood supply and promoting the need for blood donations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 2015 as “National Blood Donor Month”;

(2) acknowledges the important role of volunteer blood donors in protecting the health and emergency preparedness security of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need to promote a safe, stable blood supply and to increase volunteer participation of blood donors;

(4) endorses efforts to update blood donation policies in a safe and scientifically sound manner to maintain an adequate blood supply; and

(5) recognizes the roles of America's Blood Centers, AABB, and the American Red Cross in ensuring the safety of the blood supply in the United States and delivering lifesaving blood and blood products to health providers and patients.

SENATE RESOLUTION 57—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mr. ENZI submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on the

Budget; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 57

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on the Budget (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2015 through February 28, 2017, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 under this resolution shall not exceed \$3,534,372, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$35,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$21,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,058,924, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$60,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$36,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2017.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017 under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,524,552, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$15,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. REPORTING LEGISLATION.

The committee shall report its findings, together with such recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2017.

SEC. 4. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015;

(2) for the period October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

SENATE RESOLUTION 58—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2015 AS “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 58

Whereas in 2002, the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: the National Mentoring Partnership created National Mentoring Month;

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to serve as mentors, and encourage organizations to engage and integrate quality in mentoring into their efforts;

Whereas a mentor is a caring, consistent presence who devotes time to a young person to help that young person discover personal strength and achieve his or her potential through a structured and trusting relationship;

Whereas quality mentoring encourages positive choices, promotes self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces young people to new ideas;

Whereas mentoring programs have been shown to be effective in combating school violence and discipline problems, substance abuse, incarceration and truancy;

Whereas research shows that young people who were at risk for not completing high school but who had a mentor were 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college, 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, more than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team, and 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities than young people who were at risk for not completing high school and who did not have a mentor;

Whereas youth development experts agree that mentoring is critical to the social, emotional, and cognitive development of youth, helping them navigate the path to adulthood more successfully;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and use their personal contacts to help young people meet industry professionals and find jobs;

Whereas mentoring is a proven cost-effective investment: for every dollar invested in mentoring, there is a 3-dollar return to society;

Whereas all of the above-listed benefits serve to link youth to economic opportunity while also strengthening the fiber of our communities; and

Whereas despite these benefits, 1 in 3 youth will reach age 19 without a mentor, constituting a “mentoring gap” that demonstrates a need for collaboration and resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes January 2015 as “National Mentoring Month”;

(2) recognizes the men and women who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and who help our young people find inner strength and reach their full potential;

(3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because it encourages educational achievement, reduces juvenile delinquency, improves life outcomes, and strengthens communities;

(4) promotes the creation and expansion of quality mentoring programs across the country to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and

(5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 248. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 245 submitted by Mr. BARRASSO to the bill S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 248. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 245 submitted by Mr. BARRASSO to the bill S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. ____ CONSULTATION WITH INDIAN TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act relieves the United States of its responsibility to consult with Indian nations as required under executive order 13175 (67 Fed. Reg. 67249) (November 6, 2000).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a subcommittee hearing entitled, “Improving the Performance of our Transportation Networks: Stakeholder Perspectives”

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 2 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Employer Wellness Programs: Better Health Outcomes and Lower Costs.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to continue a hearing entitled “Attorney General Nomination.”

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 12 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on January 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today’s Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 5 and all nominations on the Secretary’s desk; I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

- Colonel Tony D. Bauernfeind
- Colonel Vincent K. Becklund
- Colonel Steven J. Bleymaier
- Colonel Richard A. Coe
- Colonel William T. Cooley
- Colonel Barry R. Cornish
- Colonel Christopher E. Craige
- Colonel Andrew A. Croft
- Colonel Allan E. Day
- Colonel Trent H. Edward
- Colonel Andrew J. Gebara
- Colonel Gerald V. Goodfellow
- Colonel John R. Gordy, II
- Colonel Stacey T. Hawkins
- Colonel Cameron G. Holt
- Colonel Kevin A. Huyck
- Colonel James A. Jacobson
- Colonel Darren V. James
- Colonel David J. Julazadeh
- Colonel Kevin B. Kennedy
- Colonel Chad T. Manske
- Colonel Michael A. Minihan
- Colonel Wayne R. Monteith
- Colonel Daniel J. Orcutt
- Colonel Lenny J. Richoux
- Colonel Carl E. Schaefer
- Colonel John E. Shaw
- Colonel Brad M. Sullivan
- Colonel Billy D. Thompson
- Colonel Paul A. Welch
- Colonel William P. West

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY’S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN73 AIR FORCE nomination of Rodrick A. Koch, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN74 AIR FORCE nomination of James F. Richey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN78 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning MORRIS A. DESIMONE, III, and ending ANDREW R. STRAUSS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN79 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning STEVEN P. HULSE, and ending ANTHONY C. LYONS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 13, 2015.

PN81 MARINE CORPS nomination of Brian L. White, which was received by the Senate