(2) distributors in China are the source of the fentanyl analogs and the precursor chemicals to manufacture fentanyl analogs that are found in Mexico;

Whereas fentanyl produced illicitly in Mexico is—

(1) smuggled across the southwest border of the United States, or delivered through mail and express consignment couriers; and

(2) often mixed with heroin or diluents in the United States and then distributed in the same United States markets in which white powder heroin is distributed; and

Whereas United States law enforcement officials have recently seen—

(1) an influx of illicit fentanyl into the United States directly from China; and

(2) shipments of the equipment to manufacture illicit fentanyl, such as pill presses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the use of illicit fentanyl in the United States and the resulting overdose deaths are a public health crisis;

(2) the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States, especially the trafficking of illicit fentanyl by transnational criminal organizations, is a problem that requires close cooperation between the United States Government and the Governments of Mexico and China;

(3) the United States Government and the Governments of Mexico and China have a shared interest in, and responsibility for, stopping the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States and all 3 countries should develop joint actions to attain that goal;

(4) the United States should—

(A) support the Governments of Mexico and China in the efforts of the Governments of Mexico and China to stop the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States;

(B) take further measures to reduce and prevent heroin and fentanyl consumption through the use of evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services; and

(C) provide access to treatment and rehabilitation to help individuals with substance use disorders recover; and

(5) the United States Government, including the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, should use the broad diplomatic and law enforcement resources of the United States, in partnership with the Governments of Mexico and China, to stop the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 536—PROCLAIMING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 30 THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, 2016, AS ''NATIONAL OBESITY CARE WEEK''

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 536

Whereas the disease of obesity is a major source of concern across the United States, and more than one-third of adults in the United States are affected by obesity, with the number of people with severe obesity in the United States continuing to grow;

Whereas experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease influenced by various physiological, environmental, and genetic factors;

Whereas, while prevention programs have successfully established the seriousness of the public health crisis posed by obesity, it is also imperative that individuals and families currently affected by obesity receive comprehensive care and treatment;

Whereas studies show that bias against and stigma associated with people affected by obesity among general society and healthcare professionals are significant barriers to effectively treating the disease;

Whereas healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and families should regard obesity with the same level of seriousness with which other chronic diseases are regarded;

Whereas research suggests that weight loss of as little as 5 to 10 percent of the total weight of an individual affected by obesity can improve the associated health risks affecting many patients living with obesity and can thereby support the goals of Federal and State initiatives to reduce chronic disease, improve health outcomes, and help control healthcare costs;

Whereas healthcare professionals should treat patients with respect and compassion and should partner with patients to develop comprehensive and individualized approaches to weight loss and weight management that consider all appropriate treatment options, such as reduced-calorie diets, physical activity modifications, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery; and

Whereas it will take a long-term collaborative effort, which will involve individual, corporate, and institutional partners in all fields taking active roles, to ignite the betterment of obesity care and treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as ''National Obesity Care Week''; and

(2) encourages all people in the United States to create a foundation of open communication to break barriers of misunderstanding and stigma regarding obesity and to improve the lives of all individuals affected by obesity and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 537—EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONCERN ABOUT THE ONGOING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA, URGING THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND CALLING FOR RESPECT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 537

Whereas the deterioration of basic governance and the economic crisis in Venezuela have reached deeply troubling levels, which in turn have led to an unprecedented humanitarian situation in Venezuela where millions of people are suffering from severe shortages of essential medicines and basic food products;

Whereas Venezuela lacks more than 80 percent of the basic medical supplies and equipment needed to treat its population, including medicine to treat chronic illnesses and cancer as well as basic antibiotics, and 85 percent of pharmacies are at risk of bankruptcy, according to the Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Federation;

Whereas, despite the massive shortages of basic foodstuffs and essential medicines, President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro has rejected repeated requests from the majority of members of the National Assembly and civil society organizations to bring humanitarian aid into the country;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund assesses that, in Venezuela, inflation reached 275 percent and gross domestic product contracted 5.7 percent in 2015, and further projects that inflation will reach 720 percent and the gross domestic product will contract an additional 8 percent in 2016;

Whereas Venezuela's political, economic, and humanitarian crisis is fueling social tensions that are resulting in growing incidents of public unrest, looting, and violence among citizens;

Whereas these social distortions are taking place amidst an alarming climate of violence as Caracas continues to have the highest per capita homicide rate in the world at 120 per 100,000 citizens, according to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime;

Whereas the deterioration of governance in Venezuela has been exacerbated by widespread public corruption and the involvement of public officials in illicit narcotics trafficking and related money laundering, which has led to indictments by the United States Department of Justice and ongoing investigations by the United States Department of Treasury and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

Whereas domestic and international human rights groups recognize more than 85 political prisoners in Venezuela, including opposition leader and former Chacao mayor Leopoldo Lopez, Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni, Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, former Zulia governor Manuel Rosales, and former San Cristobal mayor Daniel Ceballos;

Whereas, in December 2015, the people of Venezuela elected the opposition coalition (Mesa de Unidad Democrática) to a two-thirds majority in the unicameral National Assembly, with 112 out of the 167 seats compared with 55 seats for the government's Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela party;

Whereas, in late December 2015, the outgoing National Assembly increased the number of seats in the Supreme Court of Venezuela and confirmed magistrates politically aligned with the Maduro Administration and, thereafter, the expanded Supreme Court has blocked four legislators, including 3 opposition legislators, from taking office;

Whereas, during the first 6 months of the new legislature, the Supreme Court has repeatedly issued politically motivated judgments to overturn legislation passed by the democratically elected National Assembly and block internal legislative procedures;

Whereas, in 2016, President Maduro has utilized emergency and legislative decree powers to bypass the National Assembly, which, alongside the actions of the Supreme Court, have severely undermined the principles of separation of powers in Venezuela;

Whereas, in May 2016, Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro presented a 132-page report outlining grave alterations of the democratic order in Venezuela and invoked Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which calls on the OAS Permanent Council ''to undertake a collective assessment of the situation'';

Whereas, in June 2016, at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico, President Barack Obama stated, ''Given the very serious situation in Venezuela and the worsening plight of the Venezuelan people, together we're calling on the government and opposition to engage in meaningful dialogue and urge the Venezuelan government to respect the rule of law and the authority of the National Assembly.''; and

Whereas, at the joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Peña Nieto, President Barack Obama continued, ''Political prisoners should be released. The democratic process should be respected and that includes legitimate efforts to pursue a recall referendum consistent with Venezuelan law.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound concern about widespread shortages of essential medicines and basic food products faced by the people of Venezuela, and urges President Maduro to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(2) calls on the Government of Venezuela to immediately release all political prisoners, to provide protections for freedom of expression and assembly, and to respect internationally recognized human rights;

(3) supports meaningful efforts towards a dialogue that leads to respect for Venezuela's constitutional mechanisms and resolves the country's political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis;

(4) affirms its support for OAS Secretary General Almagro's invocation of Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and urges the OAS Permanent Council, which represents all of the organization's member states, to undertake a collective assessment of the constitutional and democratic order in Venezuela;

(5) expresses its great concern over the Venezuelan executive's lack of respect for the principle of separation of powers, its overreliance on emergency decree powers, and its subjugation of judicial independence;

(6) calls on the Government of Venezuela and security forces to respect the Constitution of Venezuela, including constitutional provisions that provide Venezuelan citizens with the right to peacefully pursue a fair and timely recall referendum for their president this year if they so choose;

(7) stresses the urgency of strengthening the rule of law and increasing efforts to combat impunity and public corruption in Venezuela, which has bankrupted a resource-rich country, fuels rising social tensions, and contributes to elevated levels of crime and violence; and

(8) urges the President of the United States to provide full support for OAS efforts in favor of constitutional and democratic solutions to the political impasse, and to instruct appropriate Federal agencies to hold officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of United States law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 538—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS ''NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 538

Whereas approximately 282,000 individuals in the United States live with a spinal cord injury;

Whereas spinal cord injuries account for billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages in the United States;

Whereas approximately 40,000 spinal cord injury victims are veterans who suffered a spinal cord injury while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries and the third leading cause of traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents account for approximately 50 percent of all spinal cord injuries to children under the age of 18;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce and prevent future incidences of paralysis and reverse current incidences of paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for victims of spinal cord injuries, improving the quality of life of victims of spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for promising new therapies that offer hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people of the United States that are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with a spinal cord injury and the families of individuals living with a spinal cord injury.

SENATE RESOLUTION 539—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC ACTS OF VIOLENCE AND HATRED IN DALLAS, TEXAS, ON JULY 7, 2016, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND PRAYERS FOR ALL THOSE IMPACTED BY THE TRAGEDY

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 539

Whereas, on July 7, 2016, during a rally and march in Dallas, Texas, a lone gunman opened fire, killing 5 police officers and wounding 9 other officers and 2 bystanders;

Whereas this act of violence and hatred is the deadliest attack on United States law enforcement officers since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas this act of violence and hatred occurred during a lawful, peaceful, nonviolent political demonstration;

Whereas this attack took place with the intention of targeting police officers;

Whereas Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel performed their duties admirably during the attack and risked their lives for the safety of the people of Dallas; and

Whereas the residents of Dallas came together to support the victims, and the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the heinous attack that occurred in Dallas, Texas, on July 7, 2016;

(2) expresses its belief that an attack upon a police officer is an affront to the rule of law and the promise of justice, domestic tranquility, common defense, and general welfare and the blessings of liberty secured by the Constitution of the United States;

(3) offers its condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed while protecting the city of Dallas and expresses its hope for the quick and complete recovery of the survivors wounded in the shooting;

(4) applauds the bravery and dedication exhibited by the hundreds of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, emergency medical responders, and others who offered their support and assistance; and

(5) stands together united against violence and hatred, and in support of the brave and honorable police officers across the United States who work every day to keep the country safe.

SENATE RESOLUTION 540—COMMENDING THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR THEIR WORK IN FIGHTING EBOLA

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 540

Whereas the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service (in this preamble referred to as the ''Commissioned Corps'') traces its antecedents to the creation of the Marine Hospital Service in the Act entitled ''An Act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen'', approved July 16, 1798;

Whereas the Commissioned Corps today consists of approximately 6,700 commissioned officers who serve in 11 specialty areas;

Whereas thousands of officers of the Commissioned Corps have deployed in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and Superstorm Sandy;

Whereas almost 900 officers of the Commissioned Corps deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan to support members of the Armed Forces stationed in those locations;

Whereas the officers of the Commissioned Corps constitute a rapidly-deployable force of medical professionals who serve public health in the United States and foreign countries;

Whereas more than 300 officers of the Commissioned Corps deployed to Liberia to treat Ebola patients, voluntarily accepting the risks associated with treating patients who carried this deadly disease;

Whereas hundreds of other officers of the Commissioned Corps provided support to the officers who were deployed to Liberia;

Whereas the Ebola epidemic in Liberia no longer represents a public health emergency of international concern, as determined by the World Health Organization, due in part to the intervention of officers of the Commissioned Corps; and

Whereas the United States was spared the danger of an Ebola outbreak because the disease was contained in West Africa: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends all of the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service who participated in the effort to prevent an Ebola outbreak in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 541—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK AND HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK IN THE STATE OF HAWAII, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2016, AS ''HAWAII VOLCANOES AND HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARKS DAY''

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to: