

2013 in new transmissions of hepatitis C in the United States;

Whereas chronic viral hepatitis claims thousands of lives each year in the United States, with 19,368 deaths due to hepatitis C in the United States in 2013;

Whereas, in 2014, \$4,500,000,000 in Medicare funds were spent on hepatitis C treatments;

Whereas a person who has become chronically infected with hepatitis B or hepatitis C may not have symptoms for up to 40 years after the initial infection occurred;

Whereas African Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Latinos, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, gay and bisexual men, and persons who inject drugs intravenously all have higher rates of chronic viral hepatitis infections in the United States than other groups of people;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders bear the greatest burden of hepatitis B related deaths in the United States;

Whereas hepatitis C is 10 times more infectious than human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this preamble as "HIV");

Whereas hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV;

Whereas an estimated 25 percent of people who live in the United States and are infected with HIV are also infected with hepatitis C;

Whereas life expectancies for persons infected with HIV have increased with antiretroviral treatment, and liver disease, much of which is related to hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections, has become the most common cause of death among this population that is not related to acquired immune deficiency syndrome;

Whereas, despite the fact that chronic viral hepatitis is the most common blood-borne infection in the United States, 65 percent of people living with hepatitis B and an estimated 75 percent of people living with hepatitis C are unaware of their infection;

Whereas hepatitis B is preventable through vaccination, and both hepatitis B and hepatitis C are preventable with proper public health interventions, including programs that offer access to sterile injection equipment for people who inject drugs intravenously;

Whereas effective and safe treatment is available for people living with hepatitis B and hepatitis C, including new curative treatments for hepatitis C; and

Whereas the goals of "World Hepatitis Day" on July 28, 2015, are to—

(1) highlight the global nature of chronic viral hepatitis epidemics;

(2) recognize that hepatitis can be prevented and eliminated in part through a comprehensive public education and awareness campaign designed to identify those at risk for, and living with, hepatitis;

(3) inform patients about new treatments that are available for hepatitis; and

(4) help increase the length and quality of life for people diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes July 28, 2015, as "World Hepatitis Day";

(2) supports broad access to hepatitis B and hepatitis C treatments;

(3) supports raising awareness of the risks and consequences of undiagnosed chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections; and

(4) calls for a robust governmental and public health response to protect the health of the approximately 5,000,000 people in the United States and 400,000,000 people worldwide who suffer from chronic viral hepatitis.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 20

Whereas, July 26, 2015, marks the 25th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (referred to in this preamble as the "ADA");

Whereas the ADA has been one of the most significant and effective civil rights laws passed by Congress;

Whereas, prior to the date of enactment of the ADA, individuals with disabilities were too often denied the opportunity to fully participate in society due to intolerance, misunderstanding, ignorance, or unfair stereotypes;

Whereas the dedicated efforts of passionate and courageous disability rights advocates served to awaken Congress and the people of the United States to the discrimination and prejudice that individuals with disabilities face;

Whereas Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to craft legislation to make discrimination against individuals with disabilities illegal;

Whereas Congress passed the ADA, and President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the ADA into law on July 26, 1990;

Whereas the purpose of the ADA is to fulfill the goals of opportunity, independent living, integration, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities who live in the United States;

Whereas the ADA—

(1) prohibits employers from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities;

(2) requires that State and local government entities accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities;

(3) requires a place of public accommodation to take reasonable steps to ensure that the goods and services it provides are accessible to individuals with disabilities; and

(4) requires new trains and buses to be accessible to individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the ADA has played a historic role in allowing more than 55,000,000 individuals in the United States who have disabilities to better participate in society by removing barriers to employment, transportation, public services, telecommunications, and public accommodations;

Whereas the ADA has served as a model for disability rights in other countries;

Whereas every individual in the United States, not just those with disabilities, benefits from the accommodations that have become commonplace since the passage of the ADA, including curb cuts at street intersections, ramps for access to buildings, and other accommodations that provide access to

public transportation, stadiums, telecommunications, voting machines, and websites;

Whereas, 25 years after the date of enactment of the ADA, it remains a crucial tool, as children and adults with disabilities still experience barriers that interfere with their full participation in mainstream life in the United States;

Whereas, 25 years after the date of enactment of the ADA, individuals in the United States who have disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty than individuals without disabilities, and individuals with disabilities continue to experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment;

Whereas, 25 years after the date of enactment of the ADA and 16 years after the Supreme Court issued the decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, many individuals with disabilities still live and work in segregated and institutional settings because of a lack of access to support services that would allow such individuals to live and work in their community;

Whereas, 25 years after the date of enactment of the ADA, the ADA remains a crucial tool for individuals with disabilities who experience barriers to accessibility in telecommunications and information technologies; and

Whereas the United States has a responsibility to welcome back and create opportunities for the tens of thousands of working-age veterans who have been wounded in action or have suffered injuries or illnesses related to their service in the Global War on Terror: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors the 25th anniversary of the date of enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

(2) salutes everyone whose efforts contributed to the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

(3) encourages everyone in the United States to celebrate the advancement of freedom and the expansion of opportunity made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

(4) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to support opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and the full participation of individuals in the United States who have disabilities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2538. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 22, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2539. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 22, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2540. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 22, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2541. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 614, to provide access to and use of information by Federal agencies in order to reduce improper payments, and for other purposes.