

Whereas, The cost of type 1 diabetes, including medical expenses and lost productivity, is billions of dollars per year; and

Whereas, Type 1 diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, amputations, heart disease, and death; and

Whereas, Medical and technological advances in the development of the closed-loop insulin delivery system, or "artificial pancreas," and in the development of islet cell transplantation therapy have created meaningful and realistic pathways to a cure of type 1 diabetes; and

Whereas, Adequate federal funding for research and development involving the closed-loop system and islet cell transplantation will result in positive medical outcomes for millions of americans who are affected by type 1 diabetes and, thereby, ameliorate widespread human suffering and preserve billions of dollars in taxpayer funds; and

Whereas, Current levels of funding designated for the efforts of The National Institutes of Health (NIH) in advancing the technology associated with the closed-loop system and islet cell transplantation are inadequate, and an increase in funding for NIH's efforts will expedite the refining of and access to these important medical treatments and procedures; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 131st general assembly of the state of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the Congress of the United States to increase NIH funding levels for research in and development of the closed-loop system and islet cell transplantation so that those who are suffering from type 1 diabetes will have expedited access to such technology, thus enhancing health care while saving billions of dollars in health care costs and lost productivity; and be it further

Resolved, That the clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-173. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois urging the President of the United States to select and nominate a candidate to be an Associate Justice for the Supreme Court of the United States; urging the United States Senate Judiciary Committee to promptly schedule confirmations hearings for the President's nominee followed by a recorded vote recommending confirmation; and urging the full Senate to vote to confirm such nomination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1022

Whereas, Article III, Section I of the United States Constitution vests judicial authority "in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish"; and

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the Judiciary Act of 1789, fixing the number of Supreme Court justices at 6; and

Whereas, In an effort to avoid an evenly divided Court, the Judiciary Act of 1869 increased membership on the Court to one Chief Justice, and 8 Associate Justices; that number has remained unchanged; and

Whereas, Antonin Scalia became an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court after being nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1986; Justice Scalia was confirmed by the United States Senate 98-0; he was sworn in on September 26, 1986; and

Whereas, The death of Justice Scalia has effectively placed the Court in ideological gridlock with respect to liberal and conserv-

ative interpretations of the Constitution; and

Whereas, The Court now consists of 4 members appointed by Republican presidents: Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Anthony Kennedy, Justice Clarence Thomas, and Justice Samuel Alito; and 4 members appointed by Democratic presidents: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Justice Stephen Breyer, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and Justice Elena Kagan; and

Whereas, A Supreme Court term begins on the first Monday in October, and continues until late June or early July of the following year; the final day of the 2016 term will be June 26, 2016; the Court continues to hear oral arguments until April 26, 2016; and

Whereas, There are currently 74 cases on the Court docket; with the absence of Justice Scalia, many of those cases could be decided 4-4; in that event, the decisions of the lower courts will stand; and

Whereas, In its current term, the Court will hear cases on a variety of issues affecting millions of Americans, such as affirmative action, immigration, reproductive rights, redistricting, and labor practices; and

Whereas, Pursuant to Article II, Section I of the Constitution, Barack Obama was elected President of the United States in 2008, and again in 2012; his presidency will end on January 20, 2017; and

Whereas, Article II, Section II of the Constitution provides that the President "shall nominate" judges of the Supreme Court with the "Advice and Consent of the Senate"; and

Whereas, The Democratic and Republican Presidential nominating conventions will take place in July of 2016; the Presidential election will take place on November 8, 2016; a new President will not be inaugurated until January 20, 2017, at which time that President will have the power to nominate judges; however, until that time, the power to nominate remains with President Barack Obama; and

Whereas, In 1916, Justice Louis Brandeis was confirmed as the 67th Associate Justice of the Supreme Court after 4 months of scrutiny, representing the longest confirmation process in American history; during which time, the Senate Judiciary Committee held the first public hearings on the nomination of a justice; he was sworn in on June 6, 1916, a presidential election year; and

Whereas, Justice Anthony Kennedy is the most senior member of the Court today; he was nominated by President Ronald Reagan on November 30, 1987; he was confirmed unanimously by a Senate controlled by Democrats on February 3, 1988 and was sworn in on February 18, 1988, during the last year of Reagan's presidency; and

Whereas, Additional Supreme Court justices nominated and confirmed during the final year of a presidency include: Oliver Ellsworth, Samuel Chase, William Johnson, Philip Barbour, Roger Taney, Melville Fuller, Lucius Lamar, George Shiras, Mahlon Pitney, John Clarke, Benjamin Cardozo, and Frank Murphy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly of the State of Illinois, That we urge President Barack Obama to select and nominate a candidate to be an Associate Justice for the U.S Supreme Court in a timely manner and that the nominee both liberalize and truly diversify the Court; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate to promptly schedule confirmation hearings for the President's nominee followed by a recorded vote recommending confirmation; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the full Senate to vote to confirm such nomination; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to President of the United States, Barack Obama; Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chuck Grassley; Vice-President, Joe Biden; Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Roberts; and Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk of Illinois.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 2127. A bill to provide appropriate protections to probationary Federal employees, to provide the Special Counsel with adequate access to information, to provide greater awareness of Federal whistleblower protections, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-262).

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3000. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-263).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3001. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-264).

By Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Report to accompany S. 552, A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide for increased limitations on leverage for multiple licenses under common control (Rept. No. 114-265).

Report to accompany S. 966, A bill to extend the low-interest refinancing provisions under the Local Development Business Loan Program of the Small Business Administration (Rept. No. 114-266).

Report to accompany S. 967, A bill to require the Small Business Administration to make information relating to lenders making covered loans publicly available, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-267).

Report to accompany S. 1001, A bill to establish authorization levels for general business loans for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 (Rept. No. 114-268).

Report to accompany S. 1292, A bill to amend the Small Business Act to treat certain qualified disaster areas as HUBZones and to extend the period for HUBZone treatment for certain base closure areas, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-269).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2993. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to change the spill prevention, control, and countermeasure rule with respect to certain farms; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2994. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prevent the abuse