

Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 560

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for developing a nuclear weapons program at the service, and for the benefit of, the United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014; and

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015;

Whereas a national day of remembrance time capsule has been crossing the United States, collecting stories and artifacts of nuclear weapons program workers relating to the nuclear defense era of the United States, and a remembrance quilt has been constructed to memorialize the contribution of those workers;

Whereas the stories and artifacts reflected in the time capsule and the remembrance quilt reinforce the importance of recognizing nuclear weapons program workers; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2016, as a national day of remembrance for the nuclear weapons program workers of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2016, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers in the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 561—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE COMPETITION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE, AND TO EXTEND ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE TO EVERY AMERICAN THROUGH THE CHOICE OF A PUBLIC INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr.

CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REID, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 561

Whereas under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) (referred to in this preamble as the “Affordable Care Act”), 20,000,000 Americans have gained health insurance coverage, including 11,000,000 Americans that have coverage through the public exchanges created by that Act;

Whereas the uninsured rate is at its lowest point in history, but there is more work to be done to provide access to coverage for Americans that remain uninsured, and to reduce deductibles and out-of-pocket costs for the 31,000,000 Americans who are currently underinsured;

Whereas before the date of enactment of the Affordable Care Act, millions of individuals with preexisting conditions were denied health coverage by insurance companies that controlled who received health care in the United States;

Whereas profound disparities persist in health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, and geography, and nearly 4,000,000 adults, disproportionately people of color, lack coverage as a result of the failure of 19 States to expand the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) under the Affordable Care Act;

Whereas public insurance options for workers’ compensation insurance have resulted in lower rates for small businesses and more competition in several States;

Whereas giving all Americans the choice of a public, nonprofit health insurance option would—

(1) lead to increased competition and reduced premiums;

(2) cut wasteful spending on administration, marketing, and executive pay; and

(3) ensure that consumers have the affordable choices they deserve;

Whereas establishing a State-based public health insurance plan is possible through the use of State innovation waivers established by the Affordable Care Act, which allow States to promote unique, creative, and innovative approaches to implementing meaningful health care reform, including a public option;

Whereas public programs such as the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) often deliver care more cost-effectively by limiting administrative overhead and securing better prices from providers; and

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office has found that a public health insurance option would save taxpayers billions of dollars: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports efforts to build on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) by ensuring that, in addition to the health coverage options provided by private insurers, every American has access to a public health insurance option, which, when established, will—

(1) strengthen competition;

(2) improve affordability for families by reducing premiums and increasing choices; and

(3) save American taxpayers billions of dollars.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9, 2016, THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2016, AS “EARTH SCIENCE WEEK”

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 562

Whereas 2016 marks the 19th annual international Earth Science Week, designated by the American Geosciences Institute to help the public gain a better understanding of and appreciation for the Earth sciences and to encourage stewardship of the Earth;

Whereas the theme of Earth Science Week for 2016, “Our Shared Geoh heritage”, promotes better understanding and appreciation of sites or areas with geologic features of significant scientific, educational, cultural, historic, or aesthetic value;

Whereas the study of the Earth sciences leads to an improved understanding of the Earth’s natural systems and the interplay between human society and those systems;

Whereas the Earth sciences enable the discovery, development, and responsible production of the mineral base of the United States, which contributes to the strength of the economy of the United States and raises the standard of living in the United States;

Whereas geologic mapping and remote sensing technologies provide the foundational knowledge of Earth’s natural systems that is integral—

(1) to the discovery, development, and conservation of energy, water, and natural resources; and

(2) to the safe disposal of waste products;

Whereas the geological aspects of resources, hazards, and the environment are vital to land management and land use decisions at the local, State, regional, national, and international levels;

Whereas the Earth sciences provide the basis for locating, assessing, monitoring, and mitigating natural hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, droughts, wildfires, subsidence, hurricanes, coastal erosion, and volcanic eruptions;

Whereas the Earth sciences are vital in protecting health and human safety during natural hazards events;

Whereas Earth scientists working in marine environments contribute to the understanding of global oceans, enabling advances in food management, national security, energy resources, transportation, economic growth, and recreation;

Whereas the Earth sciences support the ability to manage healthy and productive soils and ocean and river waters and fisheries, the foundations of the food supply of the United States;

Whereas the Earth sciences enhance understanding of current and past global conditions and offer a basis for anticipating future conditions;

Whereas the Earth sciences contribute to understanding Earth as a planet in the solar system and the universe;

Whereas Earth science research leads to the development of innovative new technologies and industries that fuel the economy of the United States and improve quality of life in the United States;

Whereas Earth science researchers and educators drive creativity and passion for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and