

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools, including print, audio, and video, to social media, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and Internet website tools, including blogs, wikis, and podcasts;

Whereas the National Day on Writing encourages all people of the United States and overseas to write, enjoy, and learn from the writing of others;

Whereas in 2015, the hashtag #WhyIWrite generated over 60,000 tweets and reached millions of people, encouraging students, from elementary school through the university level, athletes, authors, and artists from all over the world to participate; and

Whereas, on the National Day of Writing in 2016, the National Council of Teachers of English encourages all people of the United States to tell others #WhyIWrite through print, social media, or other means: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 20, 2016, as the “National Day on Writing”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of the National Day on Writing; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and other organizations to celebrate and promote the National Day on Writing.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 600—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26 THROUGH 30, 2016, AS “NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK”**

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 600

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that approximately 36,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy and numeracy necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is important to economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of the parents of a child and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in the education of a child is a key predictor of the success of a child, and the level of parental involvement in the education of a child increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in the education of their children and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable, and the success of children in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English-language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers the lives of the older people and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job, to continue their education, or to participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain a job;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 26 through 30, 2016, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 601—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL DYSTONIA AWARENESS MONTH” AND RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISORDER OF DYSTONIA**

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

S. RES. 601

Whereas National Dystonia Awareness Month will raise public awareness and understanding of the disorder of dystonia, which has numerous manifestations affecting people of all ages, races, genders, and backgrounds;

Whereas National Dystonia Awareness Month will also foster understanding of the impact the various forms of dystonia have on the individuals who are affected and the families of those individuals;

Whereas dystonia is a neurological disorder presenting in various forms, characterized by involuntary muscle contractions that cause abnormal and often repetitive movements or postures;

Whereas symptoms of dystonia may impede the ability of an individual—

(1) to walk, as in generalized dystonia or limb dystonia;

(2) to control the posture of the head of the individual, as in cervical dystonia;

(3) to speak, as in spasmodic dysphonia or oromandibular dystonia;

(4) to see, as in blepharospasm; or

(5) to write, as in hand dystonia;

Whereas there are limited treatments and no cure for dystonia;

Whereas dystonia is commonly misdiagnosed, delaying access to appropriate medical care for those individuals who are affected;

Whereas countless friends, loved ones, spouses, and caregivers must shoulder the physical, emotional, and financial burdens that dystonia causes;

Whereas the severity of the symptoms of dystonia and the limited public awareness of the disease cause many patients to be isolated;

Whereas the dystonia community is uniting to cooperate on awareness efforts throughout September of 2016; and

Whereas the Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation, Dystonia, Inc., the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, and the National Spasmodic Torticollis Association are dedicated to—

(1) conducting research to find treatments and a cure for dystonia;

(2) fostering public awareness and understanding of dystonia;

(3) educating patients and their families about dystonia to improve the treatment of and care for patients; and

(4) providing support and encouraging individuals to become advocates, including by sponsoring annual patient education conferences, school-based educational programs, and local events to raise funds for dystonia research, education, advocacy, and awareness: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “National Dystonia Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Dystonia Awareness Month to raise public awareness and understanding of dystonia;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research to find a cure for all forms of dystonia; and

(4) encourages all people in the United States and interested groups to support National Dystonia Awareness Month through various appropriate ceremonies and activities—

(A) to promote public awareness of dystonia; and

(B) to foster the understanding of the impact of dystonia on patients and their families.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 602—SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF LATINOS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 602

Whereas Latinos are the largest ethnic group in the United States, with more than 56,600,000 Latinos making up 17.6 percent of the population of the United States;

Whereas the Latino community is projected to grow to nearly ¼ of the population of the United States by 2050;

Whereas Latinos should have greater representation in the decisionmaking process relating to, and management of, public land;

Whereas Latino conservation initiatives break down barriers, improve access to public land, and encourage outreach to, and new opportunities for, the Latino community to use public land;

Whereas Latino conservation efforts can range from outdoor activities, such as hiking and kayaking, to educational activities and community gatherings;

Whereas increased access to outdoor recreation opportunities encourages Latino families and youth to engage with the outdoors and demonstrate the commitment of the Latino families and youth to conservation;

Whereas each person should have the opportunity to discover his or her history, culture, and heritage by exploring and experiencing the public land of the United States;

Whereas access to green spaces provides for healthier and more active lifestyles, which helps address numerous health disparity issues facing the Latino community, such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease;

Whereas the participation of Latinos in conservation efforts can encourage the interest and involvement of Latinos in careers in conservation;

Whereas the people of the United States must ensure that the public land and natural surroundings of the United States are protected for future generations; and

Whereas the members of the largest ethnic group in the United States, as the environmental stewards of tomorrow, will play a significant role in securing the future success and preservation of the public land of the United States, especially as that group continues to grow; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the role of Latinos in protecting and preserving the land, water, and wildlife of the United States;

(2) supports the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; and

(3) encourages Latinos in the United States to participate in ceremonies, activities, and

programs that engage the community in the outdoors and bring awareness to the importance of conservation.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 603—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING IN 2016 AS “NATIONAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS WEEK”**

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 603

Whereas 70 percent of all consumer spending in the United States is conducted via electronic payments;

Whereas electronic payments play a central role in promoting prosperity, commerce, and economic growth in the United States;

Whereas electronic payments involve purchases with credit, debit, and prepaid accounts, either in-store using a card or connected device or online;

Whereas payments companies in the United States enable individuals to gain access to rapid, convenient, and secure financial payments not otherwise available without electronic payments;

Whereas payments and technology companies in the United States are continually developing and deploying new, innovative electronic payments technologies to make commerce more secure, faster, accessible, and efficient to protect against fraud;

Whereas innovative electronic payments technologies support small businesses in the United States by providing secure, faster, accessible, and efficient solutions;

Whereas electronic payments are used by more than 8,000,000 merchants in the United States and the 1,200,000,000 payment cards in circulation allow individuals to conduct electronic payments through those merchants and with one another;

Whereas the value of electronic payments made on a mobile device was estimated to increase by 210 percent in 2016;

Whereas electronic payments companies processed more than \$5,000,000,000,000 in payments in 2015, and electronic payments are projected to increase to \$7,000,000,000,000 in 2017;

Whereas holiday spending accounted for nearly 20 percent of retail sales during 2015, and nearly 70 percent of all holiday sales are conducted via electronic payments;

Whereas, on Black Friday in 2015, for the first time more individuals in the United States shopped online than in retail stores, which could not have been possible without electronic payments companies;

Whereas the 7-day period after Thanksgiving accounted for more than 6.5 percent of electronic payments for the final quarter of 2015, and electronic payments totaled \$35,000,000,000 during that 7-day period;

Whereas the designation of National Electronic Payments Week is especially important to the electronic payments industry because it marks the start of the holiday season and includes Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday; and

Whereas electronic payments play an integral role for consumers and merchants in the transfer of goods and services not only during the holiday season, but also throughout the year; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on the first Friday after Thanksgiving in 2016 as “National Electronic Payments Week”;

(2) recognizes the significant contributions and great importance of electronic payments and the advantages electronic payments provide to consumers, merchants, small businesses, and the economy of the United States as a whole;

(3) appreciates the significant role that electronic payments play in the global marketplace;

(4) acknowledges the growth of electronic payments domestically and abroad; and

(5) desires to foster an environment that encourages continued innovation and enhanced security in electronic payments.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 604—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL BLADDER HEALTH MONTH”**

Mr. KIRK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 604

Whereas tens of millions of people in the United States are affected by bladder diseases and conditions, including urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, underactive bladder, interstitial cystitis, nocturia, urinary tract infections, bladder cancer, urotrauma, and neurogenic bladder;

Whereas bladder diseases and conditions have a significant impact on health and quality of life, contributing to decreased physical activity (which can increase obesity levels and the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease), depression, social isolation, falls, sexual dysfunction, loss of self-esteem, hospitalizations, nursing home admissions, and even death;

Whereas bladder diseases and conditions result in costs to the United States economy estimated at more than \$70,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas bladder problems are highly stigmatized, and open dialogue generated by National Bladder Health Month can reduce stigma and empower providers and patients to have much-needed conversations about bladder health;

Whereas medical and behavioral research to better understand and maintain bladder health and treat bladder diseases is critically needed yet poorly recognized;

Whereas bladder diseases and conditions are common in military veterans;

Whereas more than 1 in 10 military service members injured in Afghanistan and Iraq have urotrauma injuries (damage to the urinary tract or reproductive organs);

Whereas 1 in 3 younger women veterans report overactive bladder, stress urinary incontinence, and painful bladder symptoms;

Whereas more than ¼ of veterans with spinal cord injuries suffer from neurogenic bladder;

Whereas bladder cancer is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer among Veterans Affairs Health System patients;

Whereas preventative campaigns and measures for diseases and conditions that are as extensive and expensive as bladder diseases and conditions are routine and accepted in common medical, societal, and public health practice, yet no preventative campaign or measure exists in a large, systematic fashion for bladder health; and

Whereas November 2016 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Bladder Health Month” since bladder health awareness has been promoted in November for more than 20 years; Now, therefore, be it