

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Designating May 2020 as “Older Americans Month”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Designating May 2020 as “Older Americans Month”.

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2019, there were more than 55,030,278 individuals who were 65 years of age or older in the United States, and those individuals accounted for 16.7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas approximately 10,000 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 9,056,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are 60 years of age or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 10,798,199 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2020 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 6,422,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of older individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of older individuals: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates May 2020 as “Older Americans
3 Month”; and

4 (2) encourages the people of the United States
5 to provide opportunities for older individuals to con-
6 tinue to flourish by—

7 (A) emphasizing the importance and lead-
8 ership of older individuals through public rec-
9 ognition of the ongoing achievements of older
10 individuals;

11 (B) presenting opportunities for older indi-
12 viduals to share their wisdom, experience, and
13 skills with younger generations; and

14 (C) recognizing older individuals as valu-
15 able assets in strengthening communities across
16 the United States.