

113th Congress, Second Session, At-A-Glance

Actions Completed

Breast Cancer: Congress passed the Early Awareness Requires Learning Young (EARLY) Reauthorization Act (P.L. 113-265) (December 2014).

Child Abduction: In July 2014, Congress approved the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act (P.L. 113-150).

Child Care: Congress approved the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act (P.L. 113-186) (November 2014).

Child Protection: Congress approved the Kilah Davenport Child Protection Act (P.L. 113-104) (May 2014). The measure requires the attorney general to report on state penalties for child abuse.

Congress passed the Victim of Child Abuse Reauthorization Act (P.L. 113-163) in July 2014.

Civil Rights: In May 2013, Congress passed P.L. 113-11, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to four black girls – Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley – in recognition of the 1963 bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church where they lost their lives.

Defense Authorization: Congress approved the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-66) (December 2013). The bill contains several provisions to address sexual assault in the military and support for military families.

Congress passed the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-291). In addition to addressing sexual assault in the military and support for military families, the measure incorporates the provisions of the Women’s Small Business Procurement Parity Act (S. 2481), the Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act (S. 247), and the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women’s History Museum Act (H.R. 863) (December 2014).

DNA Evidence: The House approved the Debbie Smith Reauthorization Act (P.L. 113-182) (April 2014). The measure reauthorizes the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act (P.L. 106-546), the DNA Sexual Assault Justice Act (P.L. 108-405), and the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Grant program.

Domestic Food Assistance: Congress passed the Agricultural Act (P.L. 113-79), more commonly known as the Farm Bill (February 2014). The legislation reauthorizes several domestic and international food assistance programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), as well as the P.L. 480 Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole International food for Education and Child Nutrition programs.

Global Health: The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 119) to support the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day (April 2013).

Congress approved the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act (P.L. 113-289) (December 2014).

Health: The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 454) to recognize the importance of providing preventative heart screenings to women through primary care (May 2014).

HIV/AIDS: In November 2013, Congress approved the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Stewardship and Oversight Act (P.L. 113-56).

The Senate approved a resolution (S. Res. 314) commemorating and supporting World AIDS Day (December 2013).

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a resolution (S. Res. 597) commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day (December 2014).

Human Trafficking: The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 340) expressing the sense of the Senate that all necessary measures should be taken to protect children from human trafficking, especially during the Super Bowl (February 2014).

In September 2014, Congress approved the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183). The legislation incorporates the provisions of the International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act (H.R. 1896), the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (H.R. 3530), the Supporting At-Risk Children Act (S. 1870), and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Improving Opportunities for Youth in Foster Care Act (H.R. 4058).

Infant Mortality: Congress passed the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early (PREEMIE) Reauthorization Act (P.L. 113-55) (November 2013).

In September 2013, the Senate passed a resolution supporting Infant Mortality Awareness Month (S. Res. 258).

International: The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 74) to express support for the goals of International Women's Day (March 2013).

In March 2014, the Senate passed a resolution to support International Women's Day (S. Res. 376).

The Senate approved S. Res. 184, a resolution recognizing women and girls on World Refugee Day (June 2013).

The Senate approved S. Res. 433, a resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in Nigeria (May 2014).

The House approved H. Res. 573, a resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants of the terrorist group Boko Haram (May 2014).

The House approved a second resolution, H. Res. 617, condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants of Boko Haram (June 2014).

The Senate approved a resolution (S. Res. 595) recognizing Nobel Laureates Kailash Stayarathi and Malala Yousafzai for their efforts to ensure the right of all children to an education. (December 2014).

Juanita Millender-McDonald: Congress passed a bill (P.L. 113-268) to name a post office facility in Long Beach, California after former Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-CA) (December 2014).

Margaret Thatcher: The House passed a resolution (H. Res. 141) expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (April 2013).

The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 98) to honor the life, legacy, and example of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (April 2013).

Military Families: The Senate approved S. Res. 394, a resolution designating April 5 as Gold Star Wives Day (April 2014).

Newborn Screening: Congress approved the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act (P.L. 113-240) in December 2014.

Ovarian Cancer: The Senate approved a resolution (S. Res. 205) designating September 2013 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (July 2013).

The Senate approved another resolution (S. Res. 536) designating September 2014 as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (August 2014).

Small Business: Congress included the provisions of the Women's Small Business Procurement Parity Act (S. 2481) in the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-291).

Spousal IRA: Congress passed the Kay Bailey Hutchison Spousal IRA bill (P.L. 113-22), which would rename section 219(c) of the Internal Revenue Code after its author, former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) (July 2013).

Stalking: The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 14) to raise awareness and encourage prevention of stalking by designating January 2013 as "National Stalking Awareness Month" (January 2013).

Sudden Infant Death: Congress approved the Sudden Unexpected Death and Data Enhancement Awareness Act (P.L. 113-236) (December 2014).

Take Our Daughters to Work: The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 79) supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (March 2013).

Harriet Tubman: The Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 56) to recognize the significance of the 100th anniversary of the death of Harriet Ross Tubman (February 2013).

In December 2014, Congress included the provisions of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Parks Act (S. 247) in the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-291).

Veterans: In July 2014, Congress passed the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act (P.L. 113-146), which, among other provisions, expands access to the Department of Veterans Affairs' sexual assault counseling services.

Congress approved a bill (P.L. 113-199) to amend the federal charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States to reflect the service of women in the armed forces of the United States (November 2014).

Violence Against Women: Congress passed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) (P.L. 113-4) (February 2013).

Congress approved the Alaska Safe Families and Villages Act (P.L. 113-275) (December 2014). The bill repeals the limitation of tribal jurisdiction over domestic violence crimes and the issuance and enforcement of protection orders within Alaska.

Women's History Museum: In December, Congress incorporated the provisions of H.R. 863, the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act, into the FY2015 National Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 113-291) (December 2014).

Workforce Investment: Congress approved the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act (SKILLS) Act (P.L. 113-128). Among other provisions, the legislation includes provisions to address the employment of young women and women with children (July 2014).

Outstanding Actions

Abortion: The House approved the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (H.R. 1797) (June 2013).

The House approved the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 7) (January 2014).

Adoption: The House approved the Promoting Adoption and Legal Guardianship for Children in Foster Care Act (H.R. 3205) in October 2013.

Child Protection: In October 2013, the House passed the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act (H.R. 2083).

Child Support: The House approved the International Child Support Recovery Improvement Act (H.R. 1896) (June 2013). The provisions of the bill were incorporated into the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113-183) (September 2014).

Contraceptive Coverage: The Senate rejected a motion to end debate on the Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act of 2014 (S. 2578). The procedural vote, also known as cloture, requires at least 60 votes for passage (July 2014).

Education: The House approved the Student Success Act (H.R. 5), which would reauthorize elementary and secondary school programs under the law commonly known as No Child Left Behind (July 2013).

In May 2014, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee approved the Strong Start for America's Children Act (S. 2452).

Employment: The House approved the Working Families Flexibility Act (H.R. 1406) (May 2013).

Global Health: In May 2014, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a resolution supporting World Malaria Day (S. Res. 426).

Health: The House passed a bill (H.R. 45) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) and the health-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (P.L. 111-152) (May 2013).

The Senate Finance Committee approved the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) Repeal and Medicare Beneficiary Access Improvement Act (S. 1871) (December 2013). The bill includes provisions to extend abstinence-only education programs.

Human Trafficking: In May 2014, the House approved the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act (H.R. 3610), the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation (SAVE) Act (H.R. 4225), and the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking Act (H.R. 4573).

The House passed a bill to improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking (H.R. 5111), the Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act (H.R. 5081), the Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking Act (H.R. 5076), the Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act (H.R. 5135), the Human Trafficking Detection Act (H.R. 5116), the Human Trafficking Prevention Act (H.R. 4449), and the Human Trafficking Prioritization Act (H.R. 2283) (July 2014).

In September 2014, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act (S. 2646).

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking Act (H.R. 4573) (December 2014).

Immigration: The Senate passed the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) (June 2013). Among other provisions, the bill would allow abused spouses and children of non-immigrant, temporary visa holders to apply for independent immigration status using the existing Violence Against Women Act self-petition process.

International: The House approved the Department of State Operations and Embassy Security Authorization Act (H.R. 2848) (August 2013). Among other provisions, the measure would authorize funding for contributions to international organizations and the Office to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking. The bill also would limit the validity of passports issued to registered sex offenders.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved its version of the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act (S. 120) in September 2013.

The House approved the Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act (H.R. 3583) (November 2014).

In November 2014, the House passed the Girls Count Act (H.R. 3398). The House approved the Global Food Security Act (H.R. 5656) (December 2014).

Military Sexual Assault: In March 2014, the Senate approved the Victims Protection Act (S. 1917).

In May 2014, the House approved the National Guard Military Sexual Trauma Parity Act (H.R. 2527).

Pay Equity: In September 2014, the Senate rejected a motion to end debate on the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 2199). The procedural vote, also known as cloture, requires that at least 60 senators vote in favor of ending debate, thus clearing the measure for a floor vote.

Small Business: The House Small Business Committee passed the Women's Procurement Program Equalization Act (H.R. 2452) (March 2014).

TANF: The House approved the Preserving Work Requirements for Welfare Programs Act (H.R. 890) in March 2013.

The House approved the Preserving Welfare for Needs Not Weed Act (H.R. 4137) (September 2014). The bill would prohibit Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) assistance through the use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards at stores that sell marijuana.

Tax Policy: In July 2014, the House passed the Child Tax Credit Improvement Act (H.R. 4935).

Veterans: In June 2013, the House approved the Ruth Moore Act of 2013 (H.R. 671), which would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to accept a veteran's lay testimony of military sexual trauma (MST) as sufficient proof of the attack to approve a disability compensation claim for MST-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee approved the Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvements Act (S. 131) and the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act (S. 893) (July 2013). S. 893 would increase wartime disability compensation for veterans, as well as dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee passed the Veterans Programs Improvements Act (S. 1581) (November 2013). The omnibus bill contains provisions to address military sexual assault and domestic abuse.