

Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3463, a bill to amend chapter 303 of title 46, United States Code, to provide fair treatment for the families of those killed on the high seas.

S. 3478

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3478, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to repeal certain limitations of liability and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 30

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 30, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Mediation Board relating to representation election procedures.

S. RES. 519

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 519, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the primary safeguard for the well-being and protection of children is the family, and that the primary safeguards for the legal rights of children in the United States are the Constitutions of the United States and the several States, and that, because the use of international treaties to govern policy in the United States on families and children is contrary to principles of self-government and federalism, and that, because the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child undermines traditional principles of law in the United States regarding parents and children, the President should not transmit the Convention to the Senate for its advice and consent.

S. RES. 548

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 548, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that Israel has an undeniable right to self-defense, and to condemn the recent destabilizing actions by extremists aboard the ship Mavi Marmara.

AMENDMENT NO. 4318

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4318 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4322

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4322 intended to be

proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4324

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4324 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4333

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4333 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4342

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4342 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3483. A bill to amend section 139 of title 49, United States Code, to increase the effectiveness of Federal oversight of motor carriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that I believe will ensure that our motor vehicle operators, particularly those smallest businesses who rely on only one or two vehicles, are no longer subject to the nefarious practices of unscrupulous logistic companies and brokers.

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics has indicated that by 2020, freight volume will double in this country. A critical component of moving that vast expansion of freight to distributors and retailers will be motor carriers—that is, trucks.

However, for years, trucking operators, particularly the smallest companies who not only perform the back-breaking work of transporting freight across the country, but simultaneously run their own businesses, have fallen victim to fly-by-night brokers and intermediaries who connect the truck operators with shippers who need goods moved, then defraud the operators of their payments before vanishing in the night, depriving the operator of any

legal recourse in an effort to recover their losses.

How can they do this? Aren't these actions criminal? Unfortunately, the current regulations are long outdated. Beyond a prospective broker being required to pay a ten thousand dollar bond, there is little in the way of registration requirements or government oversight under present law. According to trucking experts, a broker can rake in revenues far in excess of that ten thousand dollar upfront payment in less than a month, allowing them to disappear in the night, losing their bond but more than making up for it in revenues stolen from hard-working truck operators who are left with nothing to show for their delivery, and no way to recoup those losses. The time has come to provide these operators that chance to defend themselves.

That is why I have taken this opportunity to introduce the Motor Carrier Protection Act. This legislation will bolster the rather meager framework of regulations now in place to guard against deceitful behavior from the handful of freight forwarders who engage in these criminal practices. The bond necessary to serve as a broker will no longer be a paltry 10,000, but will be elevated to 100,000, a more reasonable amount reflecting the reality of today's shipping environment. It will also expand the requirements to become a licensed broker, giving the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to opportunity to collect licensing fees from brokers, intermediaries and freight forwarders—using those fees to fund greater enforcement capabilities. As a result of this legislation, the Federal Government will be able to revoke operating licenses for those brokers that do not meet these revamped strictures. These new licenses must be renewed annually. With these improvements to existing regulation, motor vehicle operators will no longer wonder if they will receive payment for a job well done.

Why is this legislation necessary? We must be mindful that these scams are not easily discouraged. For example, in Georgia, one group of individuals operated twelve different freight broker companies over a period of 3 years—continuously evading law enforcement and the truckers they defrauded by changing the name and location of their business—while never paying the truck operators who actually moved the freight. In the end, this racketeering enterprise collected over \$500,000, most of which was due to the operators. In fact, it was the diligent efforts of Georgia law enforcement that broke up this operation, not the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, who the government has charged with preventing these sorts of fraud.

We must update these regulations, and provide FMCSA with more tools to prevent these kinds of criminal activities. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation as we move forward.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—MARKING THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE JUNE 12, 2009, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN IRAN, AND CONDEMNING ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN IRAN

Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KYL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 551

Whereas the Government of Iran has systematically undertaken a campaign of violence, persecution, and intimidation against Iranian citizens who have peacefully protested the results of the deeply flawed Iran presidential elections of June 12, 2009;

Whereas the 2009 Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Iran found that “[t]he government [of Iran] severely limited citizens’ right to peacefully change their government through free and fair elections” and “. . . severely restricted the right to privacy and civil liberties, including freedoms of speech and the press, assembly, association, and movement”;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of peaceful demonstrators gathered in the streets of Iran in the aftermath of the June 12, 2009, elections, and dozens of innocent Iranians were killed and more than 4,000 were arbitrarily arrested by police and security forces and the Basij militia;

Whereas hundreds of Iranian citizens remain in detention and more than 250 prominent activists and demonstrators were tried in mass “show trials” that began in August 2009, and at least 50 of these defendants have received sentences ranging from six months imprisonment to death;

Whereas, on June 20, 2009, a member of the Basij militia reportedly shot and killed 27 year-old student Neda Agha-Soltan, whose murder was recorded on a mobile phone camera, disseminated via the Internet, and became a rallying cry for the political opposition and Green Movement;

Whereas, since the election, the Government of Iran has systemically restricted and suppressed free press, free expression, free assembly, and free access to the Internet and other forms of connective technology in order to limit the flow of information and silence political opposition and other forms of popular dissent;

Whereas the Government of Iran has a deplorable human rights record that includes severe restrictions on the freedom of religion or belief, denial of the freedom of assembly and the rights of civil society, systematic torture and ill-treatment, and judicial proceedings that lack due process;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to operate with hostility and impunity toward journalists, reformers, ethnic and religious minorities, political opponents, human rights defenders, women’s rights groups, student activists, and others, including through unlawful and arbitrary detentions, arrests, politically motivated sentencing, physical assaults, and killings;

Whereas human rights activists, journalists, and ethnic and religious minorities have fled Iran for fear of persecution and are residing, some in dangerous circumstances, in neighboring countries seeking refugee status

and asylum in the United States and other countries;

Whereas the Government of Iran has violated its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

Whereas the 2010 Freedom House Freedom in the World Report finds that Iran leads the world in the number of jailed journalists;

Whereas, since the June 2009 election, the Government of Iran has restricted foreign press access, banned more than 60 international media outlets, and jammed international broadcasts, including those of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Radio Farda, Voice of America’s Persian News Network, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and other non-Iranian news services;

Whereas, on December 18, 2009, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution condemning “serious, ongoing and recurring human rights violations in Iran” and calling on the Government of Iran to respect its human rights obligations;

Whereas, on December 27, 2009, the Ashura holiday, at least eight civilians were killed in confrontations with authorities, and police reportedly arrested approximately 300 civilians in relation to popular demonstrations;

Whereas, on February 11, 2010, the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the Government of Iran beat and arrested numerous protestors, jammed text messaging technology, slowed and restricted access to the Internet, and blocked email and news websites, intentionally limiting the ability of Iranian citizens to communicate and freely access news and information;

Whereas, on April 19, 2010, the Government of Iran officially suspended prominent political parties, banned a reformist newspaper, and sentenced to prison leaders within the political opposition; and

Whereas activists connected to the 2009 election protests were recently re-arrested in an attempt to disrupt planned protests on the one-year anniversary of the election on June 12, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) solemnly marks one year since the flawed June 12, 2009, presidential election in Iran, and honors Iranian citizens who have lost their lives in peaceful protest since the election;

(2) supports the people of Iran as they seek peaceful and free expression, free speech, free press, free assembly, unfettered access to the Internet, and freedom of religion despite a campaign of intimidation, repressions, and violence perpetrated by the Government of Iran;

(3) commends the people of Iran who have braved the persistent and pervasive threat of censorship, arrest, physical harassment, and death to have their voices heard and peacefully exercise fundamental human rights, as enshrined in the constitution of Iran and international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, entered into force on March 23, 1976, and ratified by Iran;

(4) condemns the Government of Iran for perpetrating ongoing human rights abuses and for restricting, monitoring, and suppressing freedom of the press, expression, assembly, speech, and religion, as well as free access to the Internet and other forms of connective technology in order to limit the flow of information and silence political opposition and other forms of popular dissent;

(5) denounces the atmosphere of impunity for those who intimidate, harass, and commit violence against Iranian citizens, and

calls for the unconditional release of all political and religious prisoners in Iran;

(6) urges the President and Secretary of State to mobilize resources to support freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech in Iran, especially on the June 12 anniversary of the 2009 presidential election;

(7) encourages the President and Secretary of State to work with the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Government of Iran and establish a monitoring mechanism by which the Council can monitor such violations;

(8) urges the Government of Iran to cooperate with and allow visits of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs for Human Rights and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(9) urges the President and Secretary of State to work with the international community to ensure that violations of human rights are part of all formal and informal multilateral or bilateral discussions with and regarding Iran; and

(10) calls for the immediate return of all missing and detained United States citizens in Iran.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4343. Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. NELSON, of Florida, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4344. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra.

SA 4345. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4346. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4347. Mr. REID (for Ms. KLOBUCHAR) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1660, to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce the emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products, and for other purposes.

SA 4348. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4349. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4350. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4343. Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4301 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R.