

I was heartened when Foreign Relations Committee Chairman MENENDEZ answered the President's call by saying the committee would soon craft authorizing language for the U.S. military mission. It is my hope that the proposal I am introducing today will help move the process forward on what a specific and narrow authorization for limited military action against ISIL should look like.

This authorization is specific to ISIL and supports President Obama's key pillars: a multinational effort to degrade and destroy ISIL, the use of necessary and appropriate force in a campaign of air strikes against ISIL in Iraq and Syria and the provision of military equipment to appropriately vetted forces in Iraq and Syria, including the Iraqi security forces, Kurdish fighters, and other legitimate, appropriately vetted, non-terrorist opposition groups in Syria. It also includes four key limitations: no U.S. ground troops; repeal of the 2002 Iraq Authorization for Use of Military Force; sunset after 1 year; and narrow definition of associated forces. I have also included reporting requirements that require the President to update Congress on progress of the mission.

I believe this authorization is needed for two reasons. First, we need to comply with constitutional war powers provisions—Congress declares war and the President, as Commander-in-Chief, executes the mission. Second, and perhaps more importantly, Congressional buy-in represents a core value of our Nation—that the political leadership is willing to do the hard work to reach consensus in support of our servicemembers. If Congress is not willing to do the hard work to debate and vote on an authorization, we should not be asking our servicemembers to go into harm's way.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2014 AS “NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH” AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 551

Whereas people on college and university campuses are not immune from the potential acts of crime that the rest of society in the United States faces;

Whereas men and women deserve to learn in a positive and safe environment free from sexual assault;

Whereas experts estimate that 1 in 5 female undergraduate students will experience sexual assault or attempted sexual assault;

Whereas the aggressor in a sexual assault is usually an acquaintance or friend of the victim;

Whereas a majority of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement;

Whereas the majority of stalking victims are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old;

Whereas approximately 3 in 10 women are injured emotionally or psychologically from being stalked;

Whereas the Clery Center for Security on Campus, a nonprofit group dedicated to preventing violence, substance abuse, and other crimes on college and university campuses, has designated September as “National Campus Safety Awareness Month”; and

Whereas National Campus Safety Awareness Month provides an opportunity for campus communities to become engaged in efforts to improve campus safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages colleges and universities throughout the United States to provide campus safety and other crime awareness and prevention programs to students throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—SUPPORTING LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2014

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 552

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and approximately 15,100,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning programs, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including many that emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math, that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning programs provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days, and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating the school with the larger community;

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning programs held on October 23, 2014, highlights the critical importance of these high-quality programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities; and

Whereas nearly 2 in 5 afterschool programs report that their budgets are in worse condi-

tion today than at the height of the recession in 2008, and more than 3 in 5 afterschool programs report that their level of funding is lower than it was 3 years ago, making it difficult for afterschool programs across the United States to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 23, 2014.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARTFORD COURANT NEWSPAPER

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

S. RES. 553

Whereas the first edition of the Hartford Courant was printed on October 29, 1764;

Whereas the Hartford Courant is the oldest continuously published newspaper in the United States;

Whereas the Hartford Courant gave voice to a newfound yearning for freedom as the most circulated newspaper in the colonies during the throes of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas the Hartford Courant demonstrated leadership in actively supporting the presidential efforts of President Abraham Lincoln and his attempts to end slavery during the Civil War; and

Whereas the Hartford Courant is a 5-time finalist and 2-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for journalistic excellence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant and positive impact of the Hartford Courant throughout the history of the United States; and

(2) acknowledges the importance of a vibrant free press to democracy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2014 AS “NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH”

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 554

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2014 to be “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access

to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2014 as “National Principals Month”; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 555—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19, 2014, AS “NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN TRANSFORMING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 555

Whereas health information technology is recognized as an essential tool for improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing health care costs;

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership estimates that a fully-realized implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information can produce significant savings in health care costs;

Whereas the use of health information technology is essential to providing coordinated care, expanding access to care, and improving the quality and safety of mental and physical health care for all individuals in the United States;

Whereas Congress has a vision for a national technology-enabled health care system that—

(1) provides access to care that is available at anytime and anywhere;

(2) recognizes modern, multimodal health care delivery models;

(3) establishes open standards for connectivity to core patient information between health information technology systems, devices, and emerging technologies; and

(4) leverages technology solutions to analyze and improve treatment trends and highlight cost transparency to help combat fraud, waste, and abuse within Federal health programs;

Whereas portable health information, such as cloud-based computing and storage systems that can process vast amounts of patient information for personalized care, integrated consumer devices, and mobile medical applications, are critical technologies for improving the health of all individuals in the United States, creating high-demand jobs, and stimulating market innovation;

Whereas it is necessary to continue improving the exchange of health information confidently and securely between different providers, systems, and insurers, a task that is foundational to transforming the health care delivery system in the United States;

Whereas aligning the use of electronic health records with other reporting efforts is critical to improving clinical outcomes for patients, controlling costs, and expanding access to care through the use of technology; and

Whereas since 2006, organizations across the United States have united to support National Health Information Technology Week to improve public awareness of implementing health information technology to achieve the benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency in the health care system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 15 through September 19, 2014, as “National Health Information Technology Week”;

(2) recognizes the value of information technology and management systems in transforming health care for individuals in the United States;

(3) encourages all interested parties to promote the use of information technology and management systems to transform the health care system of the United States; and

(4) calls on all individuals in the United States to be engaged in their mental and physical health by using health information technology.

SENATE RESOLUTION 556—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 12, 2014, AS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 556

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Pelican Island in Florida;

Whereas, in 2014, the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier system of lands and waters to conserve wildlife in the world, and has grown to approximately 150,000,000 acres, 562 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and these protected lands offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including 6 wildlife-dependent uses that the National Wildlife Refuge System manages: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas, in 2014, 335 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and 271 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have fishing programs, averaging approximately 2,500,000 hunting visits and nearly 7,000,000 fishing visits each year;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experienced nearly 31,000,000 wildlife observation visits during fiscal year 2013;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every \$1 appropriated, national wildlife refuges generate nearly \$5 in economic activity;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experiences over 47,000,000 visits each year, which generated more than \$2,400,000,000 and more than 35,000 jobs in local economies during fiscal year 2011;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses every kind of ecosystem in

the United States, including temperate, tropical, and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, and remote islands, and spans 12 time zones from the Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that foster production, migration, and wintering habitat for waterfowl;

Whereas, since 1934, the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts has generated more than \$850,000,000 in funds, which has enabled the purchase or lease of more than 5,600,000 acres of wetland habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the recovery of 386 threatened and endangered species is supported on refuge lands;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are cores of conservation for larger landscapes and resources for other agencies of the Federal Government and State governments, private landowners, and organizations in their efforts to secure the wildlife heritage of the United States;

Whereas more than 38,000 volunteers and approximately 220 national wildlife refuge “Friends” organizations contribute more than 1,400,000 hours annually, the equivalent of more than 700 full-time employees, and provide an important link to local communities;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas, because there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas and one refuge located within an hour drive of every metropolitan area in the United States, national wildlife refuges employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to seek stakeholder input on the implementation of “Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation”, an update to the strategic plan of the Fish and Wildlife Service for the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the week beginning on October 12, 2014, has been designated as “National Wildlife Refuge Week” by the Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 12, 2014, as “National Wildlife Refuge Week”;

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) pronounces that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting