

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1550. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-162).

By Mr. ISAKSON, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1082, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-163).

By Mr. VITTER, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with amendments:

S. 2138. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve the review and acceptance of subcontracting plans, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. AYOTTE (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2226. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the residential treatment programs for pregnant and postpartum women and to establish a pilot program to provide grants to State substance abuse agencies to promote innovative service delivery models for such women; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2227. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to permit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to authorize Federal agencies to accept certain payments related to spectrum efficiency and reallocation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2228. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit review of certain Medicare payment determinations for disproportionate share hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 2229. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct audits relating to the timely access of veterans to hospital care, medical services, and other health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 2230. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on the designation of the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO,

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2231. A bill to express the sense of Congress that the Government of the Maldives should immediately release former President Mohamed Nasheed from prison and release all other political prisoners in the country, as well as guarantee due process for and respect the human rights of all of the people of the Maldives; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 2232. A bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2233. A bill to amend section 3716 of title 31, United States Code, to reestablish the period of limitations for claims of the United States that may be collected by garnishing payments received from the Government; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 302. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in support of Israel and in condemnation of Palestinian terror attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 303. A resolution designating the week beginning November 8, 2015, as "National Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 304. A resolution recognizing November 28, 2015, as "Small Business Saturday" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 123

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 123, a bill to prevent a taxpayer bailout of health insurance issuers.

S. 183

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 183, a bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 264

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 264, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 334, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 352

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 352, a bill to amend section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an additional religious exemption from the individual health coverage mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 366

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require that the Director of the Bureau of Prisons ensure that each chief executive officer of

a Federal penal or correctional institution provides a secure storage area located outside of the secure perimeter of the Federal penal or correctional institution for firearms carried by certain employees of the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to end discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in public schools, and for other purposes.

S. 481

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 481, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to drug scheduling recommendations by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and with respect to registration of manufacturers and distributors seeking to conduct clinical testing, and for other purposes.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 540

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to finance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, *supra*.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 804

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to specify coverage of continuous glucose monitoring devices, and for other purposes.

S. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 862

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 862, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 865

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 865, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the disability compensation evaluation procedure of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for veterans with mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 898

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public

Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 928, a bill to reauthorize the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve coverage for colorectal screening tests under Medicare and private health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 1082

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1082, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal or demotion of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs based on performance or misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 1140

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term "waters of the United States", and for other purposes.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1149, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require reporting of certain data by providers and suppliers of air ambulance services for purposes of reforming reimbursements for such services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S.

1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1711, a bill to provide for a temporary safe harbor from the enforcement of integrated disclosure requirements for mortgage loan transactions under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and the Truth in Lending Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1798, a bill to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 1883

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1883, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1885

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of assistance and benefits to veterans who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or occupying temporary housing, and for other purposes.

S. 1926

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms.

MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1926, a bill to ensure access to screening mammography services.

S. 1942

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1942, a bill to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to establish national procedures for automatic voter registration for elections for Federal Office.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2044

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2044, a bill to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to establish EUREKA Prize Competitions to accelerate discovery and development of disease-modifying, preventive, or curative treatments for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, to encourage efforts to enhance detection and diagnosis of such diseases, or to enhance the quality and efficiency of care of individuals with such diseases.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2103, a bill to modify a provision relating to adjustments of certain State apportionments for Federal highway programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2137

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2137, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide a period for the relocation of spouses and dependents of certain members of the Armed Forces undergoing a permanent change of station in order to ease and facilitate the relocation of military families.

S. 2144

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2144, a bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2145

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2145, a bill to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2220

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2220, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a special enrollment period for pregnant women, and for other purposes.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2221, a bill to preserve the companion-ship service exemption for minimum wage and overtime pay, and the live-in domestic services exemption for overtime pay, under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

S. 2223

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2223, a bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over certain Bureau of Land Management land from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion in the Black Hills National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 282

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as

cosponsors of S. Res. 282, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

S. RES. 299

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 299, a resolution honoring the life, legacy, and example of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the twentieth anniversary of his death.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2231. A bill to express the sense of Congress that the Government of the Maldives should immediately release former President Mohamed Nasheed from prison and release all other political prisoners in the country, as well as guarantee due process for and respect the human rights of all of the people of the Maldives; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since January 2015, President Abdulla Yameen of the Maldives has increasingly cracked down on dissent within his own party and the political opposition, presided over the erosion of judicial impartiality, and put increasing pressure on civil society. The arrest of former president Mohamed Nasheed, who was convicted in a widely condemned trial that UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad described as containing "flagrant irregularities", and who remains imprisoned today, is indicative of the current situation.

That is why today I am introducing, together with a bipartisan coalition of 13 other Senators, a bill expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the Maldives should immediately release former president Nasheed and all other political prisoners in the country, and guarantee due process for, and respect the human rights of, all of the people of the Maldives.

The United States and the Maldives have common interests in maritime security, commerce, and addressing climate change. But we also expect our partners to respect the fundamental rights of their people, including those who disagree with the government's policies, and to uphold the basic prin-

ciples of justice. I thank the cosponsors of this legislation for their support.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 302—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND IN CONDEMNATION OF PALESTINIAN TERROR ATTACKS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIRK, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 302

Whereas Israel is a democratic ally and major strategic partner of the United States, as codified by the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296), and cooperation between Israel and the United States continues to increase in importance with a swiftly shifting security situation in the Middle East and North Africa;

Whereas Jerusalem is an undivided city, eternal capital of Israel, holiest city for the Jewish people, central to the worship of three monotheistic religions, and unique in the Middle East region as a city of religious tolerance where Israel guarantees access, security, and respect for the three monotheistic religions to worship in peace at holy sites;

Whereas, upon Israel securing control of Jerusalem in 1967, it has maintained a policy of keeping the Haram Al Sharif specifically open for Muslim prayer, welcoming over 3,500,000 regular worshippers annually;

Whereas the Government of Israel upholds the 1994 Treaty of Peace Between the State of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which states in Article Nine that each party "will provide freedom of access to places of religious and historical significance," as well as "act together to promote interfaith relations among the three monotheistic religions, with the aim of working toward religious understanding, moral commitment, freedom of religious worship, and tolerance and peace";

Whereas Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), committed in his exchange of letters with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on September 9, 1993, that "the PLO renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence and will assume responsibility over all PLO elements and personnel in order to assure their compliance," and under the subsequent 1995 Oslo II Accord, the Palestinians pledged to "abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda . . . [and to] take legal measures to prevent such incitement by any organizations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction";

Whereas the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, wrongly announced during the tenth anniversary of Yasser Arafat's death in November 2014 that Israel has no claim to Jerusalem, that the Temple Mount will not be allowed to be "contaminated" by Jews, and that Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount would lead to a "devastating religious war";

Whereas President Abbas falsely claimed during his address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 that the

Government of Israel has used "brutal force to impose its plans to undermine the Islamic and Christian sanctities in Jerusalem" and announced that the Palestinian Authority is no longer bound by the Oslo Accords;

Whereas Israel has in recent weeks been subjected to an alarming wave of terrorism directed against innocent civilians by Palestinians armed with knives, meat cleavers, guns, and cars;

Whereas there have been approximately 69 such attacks since the beginning of October 2015, leaving 11 Israelis dead and another 145 wounded;

Whereas United States citizens have lost their lives as a result of these terrorist attacks, including Richard Lakin and Eitam Henkin;

Whereas these random, gruesome attacks are intended to instill a sense of fear among the people of Israel leading their normal lives, and also destabilize security for both Palestinians and Israelis;

Whereas Israel, Jordan, and the United States have reached an agreement regarding the installation of surveillance cameras on the Temple Mount in accordance with the respective responsibilities of the Israelis authorities and the Jordanian Waqf.

Whereas President Abbas has helped to fuel the current violence in recent weeks by falsely casting Israel as the brutal aggressor in multiple public speeches, refusing to condemn the lethal terror attacks, and failing to acknowledge Israel's right to self-defense;

Whereas President Abbas' statements are part of a pattern of incitement among Palestinian leaders that includes denial of the Jewish heritage of Jerusalem, paying monthly salaries to the families of imprisoned Palestinian terrorists, praising slain terrorists as martyrs, demonizing Jews in official Palestinian Authority media, and encouraging attacks on social media; and

Whereas Palestinian leaders have repeatedly threatened to suspend cooperation and further encouraged violence by blaming Israel for killing Palestinian perpetrators of these heinous crimes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns these brutal attacks in the harshest terms possible;

(2) welcomes Israel's commitment to the continued maintenance of the status quo on the Temple Mount;

(3) urges the President and the international community to join in forcefully condemning these Palestinian terror attacks;

(4) clarifies that there is no justification for these types of attacks and that there is a direct correlation between the recent upsurge in violence and Arab incitement regarding the Temple Mount;

(5) stands with the people of Israel during these difficult days;

(6) supports Israel's right to self-defense and rejects any suggestion of the moral equivalence of Israeli security personnel protecting its citizens from senseless violence and terrorists intent to deliberately take innocent lives;

(7) supports the agreement reached to install surveillance cameras on the Temple Mount according to the arrangements to be determined between the parties;

(8) calls upon President Abbas to stop all incitement by Palestinian officials and by Palestinian media, to strongly and unequivocally demand an end to the violence, and to take all steps necessary to halt these attacks;

(9) expresses support and admiration for individuals and organizations working to encourage cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians;