

authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2650. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, with 150 days until the start of the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, I am proud today to introduce S. 2650, the United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act. This bill would ensure that America rewards the sacrifice and hard work of Team USA by exempting from Federal tax the medals and cash prizes they win at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Our Olympians and Paralympians represent America with distinction because they epitomize our greatest values—determination, hard work and a competitive spirit. These athletes and their families sacrifice years of their lives for the opportunity to represent the United States on the world's greatest stage—the Olympics and Paralympics games. Most countries not only compensate their Olympic and Paralympic athletes, but also subsidize their training expenses with taxpayer dollars. Our athletes make considerable financial sacrifices to train for the Olympics and Paralympics, and as amateurs, receive no compensation for their training. Unfortunately, America's athletes are penalized with a tax burden for the medals and awards they receive at these games. That shouldn't be the case. We should be celebrating their achievements rather than taxing their success.

I want to thank Senator SCHUMER, Senator GARDNER, Senator GILLIBRAND, and Senator ISAKSON for working with me on this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the USA Olympians and Paralympians Act to protect and encourage the success of our athletes competing in the upcoming Rio Games as well as future Olympic and Paralympic Games. I look forward to watching Team USA compete and win later this year, and I wish all of our Olympians and Paralympians the best of luck.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 391—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO OPPOSE THE TRANSFER OF FOREIGN ENEMY COMBATANTS FROM THE DETENTION FACILITIES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, TO THE UNITED STATES HOMELAND

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 391

Whereas, on January 22, 2009, President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13492, requiring that the detention facilities housing foreign enemy combatants at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, "shall be closed as soon as practicable, and no later than 1 year from the date of this order";

Whereas Executive Order 13492 states that "[t]his order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations";

Whereas the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-10), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235), the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4), and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-53) explicitly prohibit the transfer, release, or assisting in the transfer or release, of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66), the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291), and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92) explicitly prohibit the transfer, release, or assisting in the transfer or release, of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland;

Whereas the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, are legal, safe, and humane, and have been found consistent with international conventions regarding the laws of war;

Whereas, on February 23, 2009, a Department of Defense review found that the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, complied with the requirements of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 regarding the treatment of prisoners of war;

Whereas in 2015, teams from the Department of Defense visited Federal, military, and State-owned prisons in Kansas, Colorado, and South Carolina for the express purpose of relocating detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland;

Whereas Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, serves as the intellectual center of the United

States Army as home to the Army University, the Command and General Staff College, and the Combined Arms Center;

Whereas Fort Leavenworth operates the United States Disciplinary Barracks and Midwest Joint Regional Corrections Facility, which holds convicted members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas section 812 of title 10, United States Code (article 12 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), states that "[n]o member of the armed forces may be placed in confinement in immediate association with enemy prisoners or other foreign nationals not members of the armed forces";

Whereas the facilities at Fort Leavenworth do not provide a legal alternative for detainment of enemy combatants currently held at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay;

Whereas the sites visited by the Department of Defense teams in Colorado are in close proximity to the densely-populated civilian areas of Pueblo and Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas Colorado Springs is home to the United States Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base, and Fort Carson Army Post;

Whereas Peterson Air Force Base hosts the United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), which are strategic military installations, vital to our national defense and military readiness;

Whereas Pueblo is home to the United States Army Pueblo Chemical Weapons Depot;

Whereas the Consolidated Naval Brig, Hanahan, South Carolina, has been visited by Department of Defense teams for consideration as a potential site to relocate dangerous international terrorists currently held in the detention facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay;

Whereas the Consolidated Naval Brig is located less than a mile from an elementary school, and is near other schools and residential neighborhoods;

Whereas the Consolidated Naval Brig is also in close proximity to one of the busiest ports in the United States, the Port of Charleston, as well as the City of Charleston, one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country;

Whereas the Consolidated Naval Brig is also located near the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Systems Center Atlantic and the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command, which are strategic military installations, vital to our national defense and military readiness;

Whereas Department of Defense efforts to scout locations for the express purpose of transferring detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the States of Kansas, Colorado, or South Carolina are in violation of current law, which explicitly prohibit the transfer, release, or assisting in the transfer or release, of such detainees to the United States homeland;

Whereas, on November 17, 2015, Attorney General Loretta Lynch stated to Congress that "[w]ith respect to individuals being transferred to the United States, the law currently does not allow that";

Whereas, on January 26, 2016, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter stated in an interview that "it's against the law now to establish another detention facility [in the U.S.], so therefore we have to get the support of Congress";

Whereas, on February 23, 2016, the Department of Defense issued a report pursuant to section 1035 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016, entitled "Plan for Closing of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility";

Whereas the report states that “the Administration will work with Congress to relocate [detainees] from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility to a secure detention facility in the United States”; and

Whereas the report does not address or attempt to mitigate the risks posed to local communities by the potential transfer of foreign enemy combatants from United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to United States soil, including to communities in Kansas, Colorado, and South Carolina: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) rejects the “Plan to Close Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility”, presented by the President on February 23, 2016, to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States homeland;

(2) determines that any attempt by the President to transfer, release, or assist in the transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland is in direct violation of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-10), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-55), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-6), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015 (Public Law 113-164), the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235), the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4), and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-53);

(3) finds that the detention facility at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, is the optimal location to house dangerous foreign enemy combatants and should not be closed;

(4) asserts that any potential transfer or release of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland represents a threat to United States national security due to the risk of providing law of war detainees with rights and protections under the United States Constitution, including the potential for release into the United States, and, particularly, a threat to the safety and security of local communities in the States of Kansas, Colorado, and South Carolina; and

(5) demands that the President immediately abandon any ill-conceived and illegal plans to transfer detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, to the United States homeland without explicit authorization from Congress.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 392—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE PROSECUTION AND CONVICTION OF FORMER PRESIDENT MOHAMED NASHEED WITHOUT DUE PROCESS AND URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MALDIVES TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO REDRESS THIS INJUSTICE, TO RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND TO ENSURE DUE PROCESS AND FREEDOM FROM POLITICAL PROSECUTION FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE MALDIVES**

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) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 392

Whereas the Maldives is strategically important due to its location, which straddles major trade routes in the Indian Ocean;

Whereas increasing civil rights violations in the Maldives fuel instability and pose a threat to regional security;

Whereas 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;

Whereas the arrest of former President Mohamed Nasheed in March 2015, was widely condemned as politically motivated, and his conviction and sentence of 13 years in prison has been condemned by Amnesty International as a “travesty of justice”;

Whereas in his speech in Sri Lanka on May 2, 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry stated, “[W]e’ve seen even now how regrettably there are troubling signs that democracy is under threat in the Maldives where the former President Nasheed has been imprisoned without due process. And that is an injustice that must be addressed soon.”; and

Whereas on September 14, 2015, in his opening statement at the 30th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad said—

(1) “In the Maldives, the rule of law continues to be manipulated for political ends.”; and

(2) in reference to former President Mohamed Nasheed’s detention, “Given the deeply tainted nature of this case, I urge the Government to release him, and to review several hundred pending criminal cases against opposition supporters in relation to protests in recent months.”;

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses profound concern over the prosecution and conviction of former President Mohamed Nasheed without due process; and

(2) urges the Government of the Maldives to take all necessary steps—

(A) to redress this injustice;

(B) to release all political prisoners; and

(C) to ensure due process and freedom from political prosecution for all the people of the Maldives.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 393—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK**

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 393

Whereas multiple sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “MS”) can impact individuals of all ages, races, and ethnicities but is at least 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 individuals worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, but it

is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the United States;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable neurological disease that interrupts the flow of information both within the brain and between the brain and the rest of the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling in the extremities to blindness and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any 1 person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas there is no laboratory test available that can definitively diagnose MS;

Whereas, while MS is not directly inherited, studies show that there are genetic and, most likely, environmental factors that make certain individuals, such as Caucasians of Northern European ancestry, more susceptible to the disease than others;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is still unknown and there is no cure;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all those affected by MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation among MS organizations and to provide greater opportunity for the effective use and development of resources for the benefit of individuals and families affected by MS;

Whereas the United States plays a critical role in coordinating MS research globally and amplifies the impact of research in the United States through which results are delivered to MS patients;

Whereas, in 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society was a founding member of the Progressive MS Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the development of treatments for progressive MS by removing international scientific and technological barriers and which now includes MS societies from 15 countries;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March of every calendar year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are to invite people to join the movement to end MS, encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment to moving toward a world free of MS, and acknowledge those who have dedicated time and talent to help promote MS research and programs; and

Whereas, in 2016, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 7 through March 11: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations to—

(A) participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; and

(B) help provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by—

(A) promoting awareness about individuals that are affected by multiple sclerosis; and