

Exposure to a small amount by contact with the skin or through inhalation can be fatal. Increased use of these high-tech devices will provide important protections for our law enforcement officers on the front lines. The INTERDICT Act also provides for additional equipment back in Customs and Border Protection laboratories, including more scientists who analyze and interpret test results.

The INTERDICT Act ensures that Customs and Border Patrol will have hundreds of additional portable chemical screening devices available at international ports of entry and mail and express consignment facilities and additional equipment and personnel available in their laboratories so that they can provide support during all operational hours.

Again, I thank Senator RUBIO, Senator BROWN, and Senator CAPITO for working together on a bipartisan basis so we can give these additional tools to fight this fentanyl epidemic. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill to fight the scourge of illicit drugs. It knows no political, geographic, or socioeconomic boundaries. It is the epidemic of our time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DAVID SNEDDON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SASSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 92

Whereas David Louis Sneddon is a United States citizen who disappeared while touring the Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China as a university student on August 14, 2004, at the age of 24;

Whereas David had last reported to family members prior to his disappearance that he intended to hike the Tiger Leaping Gorge in the Yunnan Province before returning to the United States and had placed a down payment on student housing for the upcoming academic year, planned business meetings, and scheduled law school entrance examinations in the United States for the fall;

Whereas People's Republic of China officials have reported to the Department of State and the family of David that he most likely died by falling into the Jinsha River while hiking the Tiger Leaping Gorge, although no physical evidence or eyewitness testimony exists to support this conclusion;

Whereas there is evidence indicating that David did not fall into the river when he traveled through the gorge, including eyewitness testimonies from people who saw David alive and spoke to him in person after his hike, as recorded by members of David's family and by embassy officials from the Department of State in the months after his disappearance;

Whereas family members searching for David shortly after he went missing obtained

eyewitness accounts that David stayed overnight in several guesthouses during and after his safe hike through the gorge, and these guesthouse locations suggest that David disappeared after passing through the gorge, but the guest registers recording the names and passport numbers of foreign overnight guests could not be accessed;

Whereas Chinese officials have reported that evidence does not exist that David was a victim of violent crime, or a resident in a local hospital, prison, or mental institution at the time of his disappearance, and no attempt has been made to use David's passport since the time of his disappearance, nor has any money been withdrawn from his bank account since that time;

Whereas David Sneddon is the only United States citizen to disappear without explanation in the People's Republic of China since the normalization of relations between the United States and China during the administration of President Richard Nixon;

Whereas investigative reporters and non-governmental organizations with expertise in the Asia-Pacific region, and in some cases particular expertise in the Asian Underground Railroad and North Korea's documented program to kidnap citizens of foreign nations for espionage purposes, have repeatedly raised the possibility that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was involved in David's disappearance; and

Whereas investigative reporters and non-governmental organizations who have reviewed David's case believe it is possible that the Government of North Korea was involved in David's disappearance because—

(1) the Yunnan Province is regarded by regional experts as an area frequently trafficked by North Korean refugees and their support networks, and the Government of the People's Republic of China allows North Korean agents to operate throughout the region to repatriate refugees, such as prominent North Korean defector Kang Byong-sop and members of his family who were captured near the China-Laos border just weeks prior to David's disappearance;

(2) in 2002, North Korean officials acknowledged that the Government of North Korea has carried out a policy since the 1970s of abducting foreign citizens and holding them captive in North Korea for the purpose of training its intelligence and military personnel in critical language and culture skills to infiltrate foreign nations;

(3) Charles Robert Jenkins, a United States soldier who deserted his unit in South Korea in 1965 and was held captive in North Korea for nearly 40 years, left North Korea in July 2004 (one month before David disappeared in China) and Jenkins reported that he was forced to teach English to North Korean intelligence and military personnel while in captivity;

(4) David Sneddon is fluent in the Korean language and was learning Mandarin, skills that could have been appealing to the Government of North Korea after Charles Jenkins left the country;

(5) tensions between the United States and North Korea were heightened during the summer of 2004 due to recent approval of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333) that increased United States aid to refugees fleeing North Korea, prompting the Government of North Korea to issue a press release warning the United States to "drop its hostile policy";

(6) David Sneddon's disappearance fits a known pattern often seen in the abduction of foreigners by the Government of North Korea, including the fact that David disappeared the day before North Korea's Liberation Day patriotic national holiday, and the Government of North Korea has a dem-

onstrated history of provocations near dates it deems historically significant;

(7) a well-reputed Japanese non-profit specializing in North Korean abductions shared with the United States its expert analysis in 2012 about information it stated was received "from a reliable source" that a United States university student largely matching David Sneddon's description was taken from China by North Korean agents in August 2004; and

(8) commentary published in the Wall Street Journal in 2013 cited experts looking at the Sneddon case who concluded that "it is most probable that a U.S. national has been abducted to North Korea," and "there is a strong possibility that North Korea kidnapped the American": Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) expresses its ongoing concern about the disappearance of David Louis Sneddon in Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, in August, 2004;

(2) directs the Department of State and the intelligence community to jointly continue investigations and to consider all plausible explanations for David's disappearance, including the possibility of abduction by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(3) urges the Department of State and the intelligence community to coordinate investigations with the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea and solicit information from appropriate regional affairs and law enforcement experts on plausible explanations for David's disappearance;

(4) encourages the Department of State and the intelligence community to work with foreign governments known to have diplomatic influence with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to better investigate the possibility of the involvement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in David Sneddon's disappearance and to possibly seek his recovery; and

(5) requests that the Department of State and the intelligence community continue to work with and inform Congress and the family of David Sneddon on efforts to possibly recover David and to resolve his disappearance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 93—CONGRATULATING THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF ROME, WHICH ESTABLISHED THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR DECADES OF EUROPEAN PEACE AND PROSPERITY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 93

Whereas 6 European countries signed the Treaty of Rome on March 25, 1957, creating the European Economic Community, which established a customs union and common market among the signatory countries in order to foster economic cooperation and interdependence;

Whereas the United States welcomed and supported this European economic integration, recognizing that this kind of union would promote interdependence and therefore prevent future war and conflict;

Whereas this economic integration has broadened and evolved into the European

Union, a unique political and economic union covering much of the European continent and based on the principles of rule of law and representative democracy, which has pursued common policies in economic, security, diplomatic, and political areas and has helped bring unprecedented peace and stability to Europe and its neighbors;

Whereas European integration has been essential in opening and expanding markets, strengthening the rule of law and respect for basic freedoms, and fostering democracy in Europe itself, both in European Union members and aspiring nations;

Whereas, since World War II, the United States has firmly supported and been an active partner in the European integration project, working with Europe to rebuild its war-torn continent through the Marshall Plan and to create an Atlantic security alliance built on shared values and ideals, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), to permanently prevent the kind of conflict we had just endured;

Whereas the United States and Europe have since engaged in a close and robust Transatlantic partnership, constructed on a strong foundation of shared values and commitment to democracy, freedom and the rule of law, to the benefit of the United States, Europe, and the rest of the world;

Whereas a strong United States-European Union partnership has helped build our mutual economies, ensured unprecedented peace in Europe, and remains essential to creating a freer, safer, and more prosperous and more interconnected world;

Whereas the Transatlantic economy is the world's largest and wealthiest market and the single most important driver of global economic growth and prosperity, with the United States and European Union together accounting for over half of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), generating \$5,500,000,000,000 in yearly commercial sales and employing up to 15,000,000 workers in domestic jobs on both sides of the Atlantic;

Whereas mutual investment is the backbone of the Transatlantic economy, and the United States and Europe are each other's primary source and destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI);

Whereas the United States and the European Union are each other's largest trading partners, and United States-European Union trade totaled approximately \$687,000,000,000 during 2016, almost double the level at the beginning of the century;

Whereas the Transatlantic economy drives innovation, with the United States and European Union investing more in mutual Research and Development than any other 2 international partners and collaborating across areas of science and technology, including marine and Arctic science, transportation and energy technologies, and health research;

Whereas this historic partnership goes far beyond economic and commercial ties, and the United States and the European Union work together to promote peace and stability, protect human rights, foster democracy and sustainable development, combat global threats like terrorism, and eradicate disease and poverty;

Whereas the United States and the European Union have developed numerous mechanisms to strengthen the Transatlantic relationship and to improve communication and collaboration among our respective governments, including annual European Union-United States Summit meetings and the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, which facilitates meetings between members of the European Parliament and the United States Congress on issues of mutual concern;

Whereas, despite representing approximately 12 percent of the world's population,

the United States and the European Union together provide more than three-quarters of official development assistance worldwide and have established an ongoing Development Dialogue to improve the quality and effectiveness of development aid;

Whereas the United States and the European Union collaborate to promote peace and stability and prevent conflict around the world, working together to address conflicts including those in Syria and Ukraine and confront global security challenges like terrorism, nuclear weapons proliferation, transnational crime, and cybercrime;

Whereas, in pursuit of an integrated, free, and peaceful Europe, the United States and the European Union have worked together to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Balkans and to advance their cooperation with and integration into institutions like NATO and the European Union.

Whereas, in response to its annexation of Crimea and continued aggression in the sovereign nation of Ukraine, the United States and the European Union imposed and have maintained sanctions to increase the diplomatic and financial costs on the Russian Federation for its illegal actions;

Whereas, in the face of ongoing threats from terrorism, the United States and the European Union cooperate closely to target terrorist financing, secure transportation and borders, provide mutual assistance with cross-border investigations and extraditions, and share information; and

Whereas leaders on both sides of the Atlantic have long recognized the value of and expressed their commitment to the Transatlantic partnership, including—

(1) President John F. Kennedy, who said in 1962 that “we do not regard a strong and united Europe as a rival but as a partner,” and asserted that the United States believed “that a united Europe will be capable of playing a greater role in the common defense, of responding more generously to the needs of poorer nations, of joining with the United States and others in lowering trade barriers, resolving problems of commerce, commodities, and currency, and developing coordinated policies in all economic, political, and diplomatic areas”;

(2) President Ronald Reagan, who addressed the European Parliament in 1985 “to reaffirm to the people of Europe the constancy of the American purpose” and to state that “America remains . . . dedicated to the unity of Europe” and “is at your side today, because, like you, we have not veered from the ideals of the West—the ideals of freedom, liberty, and peace”;

(3) President Barack Obama, who stated in a 2016 address in Germany that “the United States, and the entire world, needs a strong and prosperous and democratic and united Europe. . . because Europe's security and prosperity is inherently indivisible from our own” and recognized that “Europe helps to uphold the norms and rules that can maintain peace and promote prosperity around the world”; and

(4) Vice President Mike Pence, who asserted that “our two continents share the same heritage, the same values and above all, the same purpose to promote peace and prosperity through freedom, democracy and the rule of law” and reiterated that the United States “will stand with Europe, today and every day,” while traveling in Europe in February 2017: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the European Union and its member states on the 60th anniversary of the historic signing of the Treaty of Rome;

(2) commends the European Union for its critical role in spreading peace, prosperity, and stability throughout Europe and worldwide, as well as its close and enduring partnership with the United States;

(3) recognizes the challenges the European Union, its Transatlantic partners, and the broader global community continue to face, including an unprecedented migration and refugee crisis, increased Russian aggression and interference, violent extremism, and the rise of nationalist and populist sentiment; and

(4) affirms the desire of the United States Government to strengthen the Transatlantic partnership with the European Union and its member states.

SENATE RESOLUTION 94—DESIGNATING MARCH 2017 AS “NATIONAL READ ALOUD MONTH”

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 94

Whereas medical experts have concluded that reading aloud is the “single most important” activity in which parents can participate in order to prepare their children to read and learn;

Whereas recent research has concluded that, by 3 years of age, there is a gap in early brain development between children whose parents read to them and children whose parents do not;

Whereas Congress has highlighted the importance of early childhood literacy by including funding for State comprehensive literacy plans and targeted funds toward early childhood education programs in the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802);

Whereas, in 2013, Read Aloud 15 MINUTES launched a decade-long national campaign highlighting the importance of reading aloud to children, starting from birth; and

Whereas Read Aloud 15 MINUTES now has more than 21 National Leadership Partners and 10,000 grassroots partners, including day care facilities, schools, libraries, health centers, and rotary clubs in all 50 States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2017 as “National Read Aloud Month”; and

(2) encourages parents and guardians to read to their children for 15 minutes every day because of the developmental benefits that activity has for children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 95—DESIGNATING MARCH 22, 2017, AS “NATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY”

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 95

Whereas rehabilitation counselors conduct assessments, provide counseling, support families, and plan and implement rehabilitation programs for individuals in need of rehabilitation;

Whereas the purpose of professional organizations for rehabilitation counseling and education is to promote the improvement of rehabilitation services available to individuals with disabilities through quality education for counselors and rehabilitation research;

Whereas various professional organizations have vigorously advocated for up-to-date education and training and the maintenance of professional standards in the field of rehabilitation counseling and education, including—