

Whereas, in October 2014, the Lahore High Court of Appeals upheld the death sentence of Asia Bibi;

Whereas the execution of Mumtaz Qadri in February 2016 resulted in street protests that called for the death of Asia Bibi;

Whereas, in Pakistan, mere accusations of blasphemy, even by private individuals, often lead to violence against those accused by private actors;

Whereas Pakistan's human rights problems include poor prison conditions, arbitrary detention, lengthy pretrial detention, a weak criminal justice system, lack of judicial independence in the lower courts, and governmental infringement on citizens' privacy rights;

Whereas Asia Bibi is at risk of extrajudicial murder even if she is released;

Whereas, in Pakistan, violence, abuse, and social and religious intolerance by militant organizations and other nongovernmental actors contribute to a culture of lawlessness in some parts of the country; and

Whereas there is great concern for Asia Bibi's safety during her incarceration due to reports that prisoners who are members of religious minorities face a heightened risk of mistreatment, torture, or murder: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Pakistan to immediately and unconditionally release Asia Bibi and ensure that she, her family, and her legal counsel are afforded all necessary measures to ensure their safety; and

(2) urges the Government of Pakistan to reform its laws to reflect democratic norms and ideals and work to promote tolerance of religious minorities, whether Muslim, Christian, Hindu, or other ostracized, so that no one is in danger of persecution from the government or their neighbors for exercising their right to free speech and practicing their religion.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 110—RELATING TO PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE IN THE EVENT OF A PARTIAL OR FULL SHUTDOWN OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 110

*Resolved*,

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Shutdown Accountability Resolution".

##### SEC. 2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE DURING A FULL OR PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term "Government shutdown" means a lapse in appropriations for 1 or more agencies of the Federal Government.

(b) **CONVENING OF THE SENATE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any rule or order of the Senate, during the period of a Government shutdown—

(A) the Senate shall convene at 8:00 a.m. each day, unless the body is in continuous session; and

(B) it shall not be in order to ask for, and the Presiding Officer shall not entertain a request for, unanimous consent to change the hour or day on which the Senate shall convene under subparagraph (A).

(2) **SENATE NOT IN SESSION.**—If the Senate is not in session on the first calendar day of a Government shutdown, the majority leader, after consultation with the minority leader,

shall notify Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this standing order, the Senate shall convene at 8:00 a.m. on the next calendar day of the Government shutdown.

(c) **PRESENCE OF A QUORUM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—During the period of a Government shutdown, and notwithstanding any provision of the Standing Rules of the Senate—

(A) immediately after the Presiding Officer takes the chair in accordance with rule IV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum; and

(B) 1 hour after the presence of a quorum has last been demonstrated, the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

(2) **LACK OF QUORUM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If, upon a calling of the roll under paragraph (1), it shall be ascertained that a quorum is not present—

(i) the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the names of any absent Senators; and

(ii) following the calling of the names under clause (i), the Presiding Officer shall, without intervening motion or debate, submit to the Senate by a yeas-and-nays vote the question: "Shall the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to request the attendance of absent Senators?"

(B) **DIRECTION TO COMPEL ATTENDANCE.**—If a quorum is not present 15 minutes after the time at which the vote on a question submitted under subparagraph (A)(ii) starts, the Presiding Officer shall, without intervening motion or debate, submit to the Senate by a yeas-and-nays vote the question: "Shall the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to compel the attendance of absent Senators?"

(C) **ARREST OF ABSENT SENATORS.**—Effective 1 hour after the Sergeant-at-Arms is directed to compel the attendance of absent Senators under subparagraph (B), if any Senator not excused under rule XII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is not in attendance, the Senate shall be deemed to have agreed an order that reads as follows: "Ordered, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be directed to arrest absent Senators; that warrants for the arrests of all Senators not sick nor excused be issued under the signature of the Presiding Officer and attested by the Secretary, and that such warrants be executed without delay."

(D) **REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than once per hour during proceedings to compel the attendance of absent Senators, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall submit to the Senate a report on absent Senators, which shall—

(i) be laid before the Senate;

(ii) identify each Senator whose absence is excused;

(iii) identify each Senator who is absent without excuse; and

(iv) for each Senator identified under clause (iii), provide information on the current location of the Senator.

(3) **REGAINING THE FLOOR.**—If a Senator had been recognized to speak at the time a call of the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum was initiated under paragraph (2)(A), and if the presence of a quorum is established, that Senator shall be entitled to be recognized to speak.

(d) **ADJOURNING AND RECESSING.**—During the period of a Government shutdown—

(1) a motion to adjourn or to recess the Senate shall be decided by a yeas-or-nays vote;

(2) if a quorum is present, the Presiding Officer shall not entertain a request to adjourn or recess the Senate by unanimous consent or to vitiate the yeas and nays on such a motion by unanimous consent;

(3) a motion to adjourn or a motion to recess made during the period beginning at 8:00

a.m. and ending at 11:59 p.m., shall only be agreed to upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senators present and voting, a quorum being present; and

(4) if the Senate must adjourn due to the absence of a quorum, the Senate shall reconvene 2 hours after the time at which it adjourns and ascertain the presence of a quorum in accordance with subsection (c)(1).

(e) **NO SUSPENSION OF REQUIREMENTS.**—The Presiding Officer may not entertain a request to suspend the operation of this standing order by unanimous consent or motion.

(f) **CONSISTENCY WITH SENATE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES.**—Nothing in this standing order shall be construed in a manner that is inconsistent with S. Res. 296 (108th Congress) or any other emergency procedures or practices of the Senate.

(g) **STANDING ORDER.**—This section shall be a standing order of the Senate.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 111—CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALASKA PURCHASE

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 111

Whereas Secretary of State William H. Seward agreed to purchase Alaska from Russia on March 30, 1867, for approximately 2 cents per acre;

Whereas the Senate ratified the treaty with Russia regarding the purchase of Alaska on April 9, 1867, and the House of Representatives approved the fund appropriation for that purchase on July 14, 1868;

Whereas, on August 1, 1868, the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias acknowledged that \$7,200,000 had been received from the United States Treasury as payment in full for the cession of Alaska;

Whereas New Archangel, later Sitka, served as—

(1) the capital of the territory of Alaska from the time of Russian rule until 1906; and

(2) the location for the signing of the Alaska Purchase on October 18, 1867;

Whereas Alaska is home to—

(1) the highest mountain peak in North America, Denali, which rises 20,310 feet above sea level;

(2) the northernmost, easternmost, and westernmost points of the United States;

(3) more active glaciers and ice fields than in the rest of the inhabited world;

(4) a variety of animal species, including—

(A) the largest concentration of American Bald Eagles and the largest species of brown bear in the United States; and

(B) 90 percent of the sea otters in the world;

(5) 24 national parks, including the 5 largest national parks in the United States, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Denali National Park and Preserve, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and Glacier Bay National Park, which, together, are larger than the 8 smallest States combined;

(6) the 2 largest national forests in the United States, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, spanning more than 37,000 square miles;

(7) more than 38 percent of the shoreline and nearly 54 percent of the coastline of the United States; and

(8) more Federal land than there is total land in the States of Texas and Nebraska combined;

Whereas, in 1913, the first act of the first Territorial Legislature of Alaska was to grant women suffrage;

Whereas there are 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska and 20 Alaska Native languages are spoken in the State;

Whereas, on December 18, 1971, the landmark Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) was signed into law, which established 13 Alaska Native Regional Corporations and more than 200 Alaska Native Village Corporations;

Whereas more than 44,000,000 acres of land in Alaska are under Alaska Native ownership;

Whereas the 3 most diverse census tracts in the United States are located in the Municipality of Anchorage;

Whereas, during World War II, the Imperial Japanese Navy invaded and occupied portions of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska;

Whereas Alaska has—

(1) 12 major military bases and stations that are home to honorable men and women who serve the United States in the Armed Forces; and

(2) the highest number of veterans in the United States per capita;

Whereas some of the highest producing oil and natural gas fields in the United States are on the North Slope in Alaska;

Whereas more crude oil has been produced from State lands on the North Slope in Alaska than from Federal lands in the Central Gulf of Mexico;

Whereas the ports of Alaska consistently process the highest volume of commercial seafood that lands in the United States;

Whereas Alaska has vast reserves of minerals and the Red Dog Mine is one of the largest zinc mines in the world;

Whereas Alaska has produced world record-breaking agricultural products, such as the heaviest cabbage at 138.25 pounds and the heaviest broccoli at 35 pounds;

Whereas the Aurora Borealis is visible from Fairbanks an average of 243 days each year;

Whereas Girdwood was recognized by National Geographic as the world's best ski town;

Whereas, in the northernmost town in Alaska, the sun does not set for approximately 80 days in the summer and does not rise for approximately 60 days in the heart of winter;

Whereas President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation admitting Alaska to the United States on January 3, 1959; and

Whereas Alaska is the largest State in the United States in land area at more than 586,000 square miles and constitutes almost  $\frac{1}{5}$  the size of the contiguous United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate commends the State of Alaska on, and joins with the people of the State of Alaska in celebrating, the 150th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 112—DESIGNATING APRIL 5, 2017, AS “GOLD STAR WIVES DAY”

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HELLER, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 112

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services,

support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas in 1945, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2017, marks the 72nd anniversary of the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2017, as “Gold Star Wives Day”;;

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Wives Day to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role that Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 113—RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENTER ON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 113

Whereas the Center on Human Development and Disability (referred to in this preamble as “CHDD”) is one of the largest and most comprehensive interdisciplinary centers in the United States that focuses on improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities;

Whereas, each year, hundreds of University of Washington faculty, staff, and students contribute to the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families by providing—

(1) model clinical services;

(2) basic and translational research;

(3) interdisciplinary clinical and research training; and

(4) technical assistance and outreach to community practitioners and agencies;

Whereas CHDD is a recognized University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.);

Whereas, as a member of the network of 67 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities located in every State

and territory, CHDD provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in 11 different CHDD-based clinics at the University of Washington;

Whereas CHDD scientists and clinicians conduct research to generate knowledge and disseminate information to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center;

Whereas CHDD dynamically prepares graduate students and community professionals in health, education, behavioral, and other related fields to develop greater knowledge and skills to meet the unique needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families;

Whereas CHDD partners with premier national and State disability organizations and resources, such as the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council and Disability Rights Washington, to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families; and

Whereas CHDD promotes the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities by improving—

(1) community access, support, and inclusion in education, housing options, continuing education opportunities, employment, quality health care, and wellness programs; and

(2) opportunities to build and grow friendships: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and celebrates the history and contributions of the Center on Human Development and Disability at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington; and

(2) commends the Center on Human Development and Disability for—

(A) creating more welcoming and supportive communities; and

(B) improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE BAYS, HARBORS, AND TERRITORIAL SEAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JANUARY 9, 1962, AND ENDING ON MAY 7, 1975, SHOULD BE PRESUMED TO HAVE SERVED IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR ALL PURPOSES UNDER THE AGENT ORANGE ACT OF 1991

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 12

Whereas section 1116(f) of title 38, United States Code, states that “For the purposes of establishing service connection for a disability or death resulting from exposure to a herbicide agent, including a presumption of service-connection under this section, a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to an herbicide agent containing dioxin or 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, and may be presumed to have been exposed during such service to any other chemical compound in an herbicide agent, unless there is