

the Kuwait Air Force and allow for the continued education of current and future Kuwait Air Force personnel. The construction of this airbase will enable Kuwait to enhance the operational effectiveness of its military and promote security and stability throughout Kuwait. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this additional capability into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this infrastructure and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

USACE is the principal organization that will direct and manage this program. USACE will provide services through both in-house personnel and contract services. The estimated number of U.S. Government and contractor representatives to be assigned to Kuwait to implement the provisions of this proposed sale will be determined as a result of program definitization.

There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

H.J. RES. 66 AND H.J. RES. 67

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, the easiest way for workers to save the additional money they need for retirement is through work-based retirement plans. When workers have access to work-based plans, the vast majority of them choose to participate, but many Americans do not work for an employer that offers such a plan. According to AARP, 55 million private-sector workers ages 18 to 64 had no ability to save for retirement through an employer-sponsored plan in 2013. Of those workers, 2.2 million lived in Pennsylvania.

In response, numerous States and multiple cities have considered programs that would give residents better access to retirement savings accounts, and multiple States have already passed laws putting such programs in place: Our Republican colleagues are trying to nullify efforts by these States and cities, rolling back their efforts to give their citizens better access to retirement savings accounts.

It is both surprising and disappointing to see this opposition mounted against a measure we should all be able to support—enhancing access to retirement savings. In undermining these programs, Republicans will be denying access to safe, low-cost retirement savings vehicles.

A recent study looking at just the city of Philadelphia found that roughly half of Philadelphia workers between the ages of 25 and 64 did not have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan at work. Further, 20 percent of Philadelphians over the age of 65 are poor, compared to 9 percent nationwide; 30 percent of Philadelphians over the age of 65 have incomes between 100 and 200 percent of poverty.

One of the most important elements of economic security for the middle class is retirement security. Millions of Americans ask, “Will I have enough money saved to retire and retire com-

fortably?” The answer to that question for too many Pennsylvanians is no. Looking at these facts, Philadelphia took action and began exploring ways to expand access to saving for our workers. Through these resolutions, Republicans will severely undermine the efforts of cities and States to expand access to retirement savings vehicles to the citizens by facilitating IRA retirement savings through private employers.

The programs States and cities are pursuing are simple, low-cost, and voluntary. Most would simply require that employers that do not currently offer a plan facilitate voluntary employee contributions to an Individual Retirement Account. Our State and local governments are our idea incubators. Many of our States and cities, including Philadelphia, want to make it easier for workers to save for retirement. In repealing this guidance, Republicans are hindering that effort.

COMBATING GLOBAL CORRUPTION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week, I introduced, along with Senators PERDUE, FEINSTEIN, RUBIO, BLUMENTHAL, COLLINS, MERKLEY, BOOKER, and LEAHY, the Combating Global Corruption Act of 2017.

Global corruption is a fundamental obstacle to peace, prosperity, and human rights. It is fueling transnational criminal networks and violent extremism, and combatting it should be elevated and prioritized across our foreign policy efforts.

I know my colleagues understand the crucial importance of addressing corruption because it undermines public confidence in government institutions and fosters resentment and instability. There is growing recognition across the United States and around the world that corruption is a serious threat to international security and stability. The countries and names might be different, but the characteristics and the impact on innocent people are the same.

The bribery scandal surrounding the huge Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht has tarnished politicians and governments from Peru to Columbia to Mexico. Rampant corruption in oil-rich Angola is depriving children of a quality education and contributing to the highest child mortality rate in the world. While progress is now being made, extensive corruption in Afghanistan resulted in billions of dollars of assistance winding up in the pockets of crooked elites.

The connections are clear: Where there are high levels of corruption, we find fragile states, political instability, and people suffering from hunger and violence.

Corruption is a global problem, but its consequences take the harshest toll at the local level, and it is very tough to fight. The problem of corruption, and the disruption and suffering it

causes, involves many corrupt actors, from government officials to businessmen, from law enforcement and military personnel to street gangs. Corruption is a system that operates via extensive, entrenched networks in both the public and private sectors.

We know that corruption is the life-blood of Vladimir Putin's Russia, and it is the glue for his regime's survival. Parasitic at home, deeply corrupt regimes like Putin's seek to enrich themselves, hollow out their own countries' institutions, and subvert rules-based democratic states abroad. An anticorruption platform run by opposition activist and aspiring, Presidential candidate Alexei Navalny recently released information uncovering four mansions, an Italian vineyard, yachts, and other high-value assets reportedly held by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. Anticorruption demonstrations, in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and across the country in recent weeks reflect the ongoing resistance of the Russian people to government corruption. Hundreds were arrested. Prominent anticorruption activist Ildar Dadin, who has already spent over a year in prison for earlier protests, was among those arrested.

Corruption feeds the destructive fire of criminal networks and transnational crime. Citizens lose faith in the social compact between governments and the people. In Venezuela, we have seen how rampant corruption has collapsed the country's economy, sparked a humanitarian crisis, and produced chains of money laundering that span several continents. The ongoing crisis there now threatens to collapse the last few remnants of the rule of law.

Corruption also fuels violence by security forces. South Sudan's kleptocrats have either failed to pay or delayed salary payments to their soldiers who have in turn taken out their rage on innocent civilians, attacking them, looting and burning their homes, and engaging in other violent criminality.

We should take heart that in just the past 2 years, popular protests against corruption have broken out in Iraq, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldova, and Venezuela. In Romania, efforts to weaken anticorruption laws there prompted an estimated 500,000 protesters to take to the streets last month, even after the government repealed its decree, showing the degree to which citizens are fed up with graft and determined to push back. These were the largest demonstrations since the fall of communism.

Some victims express their frustration through peaceful protest, but not all. The revolutions of the Arab Spring and Ukraine began, in part, as determined anticorruption protests.

In every country where protests erupted in 2011, demonstrators condemned the corruption of detested ruling elites and demanded accountability and the return of looted assets. These

revolutions have degenerated into some of the chief security challenges we confront now—Russian aggression in Ukraine, 6 years of slaughter in Syria, the implosion of Libya, a brutal war in Yemen, the fraying of Iraq, and an expanding insurgency in Egypt.

Official corruption fuels radical extremism and terrorism, too; it gives credibility to militant religious extremists and helps them gain recruits and increasing footholds in Afghanistan and Iraq to Pakistan, Central Asia, the Sahel, and West Africa. It may seem like a spurious example, but it can be persuasive to a young Nigerian man whose sister was molested by a teacher as the cost for attending school.

Let's be clear-eye. Any fight against corruption will be long-term and difficult. It is a fight against powerful people, powerful companies, and powerful interests. It is about changing a mindset and a culture as much as it is about establishing and enforcing laws.

As my colleagues and constituents know, my attention has long been focused on fighting corruption. I introduced the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to target human rights abusers and corrupt individuals around the globe who threaten the rule of law and deny fundamental freedoms, but the problem is so big—we simply have to do more.

This is why this week I introduced with bipartisan support the Combating Global Corruption Act of 2017 in the U.S. Senate.

We must meet the scale of entrenched corruption with greater resolve and commitment. To do that, I believe we must focus on three things which I will lay out in my legislation.

First, we must institutionalize the fight against corruption as a national security priority. In my bill, the State Department will produce an annual report, similar to the Trafficking in Persons Report, which takes a close look at each country's efforts to combat corruption. That model, which has effectively advanced the effort to combat modern day slavery, will similarly embed the issue of corruption in our collective work, so that we hold governments to account.

The bill establishes minimum standards for combating corruption—standards that should be every government's duty to its citizens. These include whether a country has laws that recognize corrupt acts for the crimes they are—violations of the people's trust—and that come with serious penalties for breaking that trust; whether an independent judiciary decides corruption cases, free from influence and abuse; whether there is support for civil society organizations that are the watchdogs of integrity against would-be thieves of the state. This bill aims to build anticorruption DNA into the basic functions of government.

Second, the bill would improve the way we look at our own foreign and security assistance, and promote more

transparency—let in some daylight. For countries that fall short on their corruption efforts, the bill calls for an assessment of the risk of corruption for our foreign assistance and steps to combat corruption, including the ability to claw back any funds diverted from their intended purpose and terminate compromised programs. American taxpayers should know how our foreign assistance is spent, and they should feel confident that we are doing the kind of risk assessments, analysis, and oversight that ensure our assistance to other countries is having the effect we want it to have.

Third, the bill consolidates information about anticorruption efforts abroad and puts it online, where citizens can see the numbers and the programs. That kind of transparency is essential to open government, but in my experience, it also has the effect of making us better at self-policing our work. We can use the data to capture redundancies and analyze trends, improving our decisionmaking.

I urge my colleagues to join me and the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation in this effort. The success of our diplomacy, and the ultimate impact of our international security efforts depend on it.

Thank you.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, on April 6, 2017, the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library organized, elected a chairman, a vice chairman, and adopted committee rules for the 115th Congress. Members of the Joint Committee on the Library elected Congressman GREGG HARPER as chairman and Senator RICHARD SHELBY as vice chairman. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY— 115TH CONGRESS

TITLE I—MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Regular meetings may be called by the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Vice-Chairman, as may be deemed necessary or pursuant to the provision of paragraph 3 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2. Meetings of the committee, including meetings to conduct hearings, shall be open to the public, except that a meeting or series of meetings by the committee on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (F) would require the meeting to be closed followed immediately by a recorded vote in open session by a majority of the members of

the committee when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(A) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) will relate solely to matters of the committee staff personal or internal staff management or procedures;

(C) will tend to charge an individual with a crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise to expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy, or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy of an individual;

(D) will disclose the identity of any informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interest of effective law enforcement;

(E) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets or financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(1) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(2) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(F) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under the provisions of law or Government regulation. (Paragraph 5(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.)

3. Written notices of committee meetings will normally be sent by the committee's staff director to all members at least 3 days in advance. In addition, the committee staff will email or telephone reminders of committee meetings to all members of the committee or to the appropriate staff assistants in their offices.

4. A copy of the committee's intended agenda enumerating separate items of committee business will normally be sent to all members of the committee by the staff director at least 1 day in advance of all meetings. This does not preclude any member of the committee from raising appropriate non-agenda topics.

5. Any witness who is to appear before the committee in any hearing shall file with the clerk of the committee at least 3 business days before the date of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and an executive summary thereof, in such form as the Chairman may direct, unless the Chairman waived such a requirement for good cause.

TITLE II—QUORUMS

1. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(1) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 4 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 7(a)(2) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules, 2 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony; provided, however, once a quorum is established, any one member can continue to take such testimony.

3. Under no circumstance may proxies be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

TITLE III—VOTING

1. Voting in the committee on any issue will normally be by voice vote.

2. If a third of the members present so demand, a recorded vote will be taken on any question by roll call.