

(2) in 2014, the number of anti-Baha'i articles rose to approximately 400 per month; and

(3) by 2016, the number of anti-Baha'i articles rose to approximately 1,500 per month;

Whereas there are currently 90 Baha'is in prison in Iran;

Whereas the Government of Iran is party to the International Covenants on Human Rights and is in violation of its obligations under such Covenants;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals "responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009"; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran to immediately release the 7 imprisoned Baha'i leaders, the 7 imprisoned Baha'i educators, and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(3) calls on the President and Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran's continued violation of human rights and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha'i community of Iran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2017 AS "PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH"

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

S. RES. 140

Whereas Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, but the disease affects an estimated 1,000,000 individuals in the United States and its prevalence is expected to more than double by 2040;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas every day Parkinson's disease greatly impacts millions of individuals in the United States who are caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals with Parkinson's disease;

Whereas, although research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental fac-

tors, the exact cause of the disease in most individuals is still unknown;

Whereas, as of March 2017, there is no objective test or biomarker for diagnosing Parkinson's disease;

Whereas there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address the medical needs of patients and remain effective over time;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and may include—

- (1) tremors;
- (2) slowness of movement and rigidity;
- (3) difficulty with balance and gait;
- (4) disturbances in speech and swallowing;
- (5) cognitive impairment and dementia;
- (6) mood disorders; and
- (7) a variety of other nonmotor symptoms;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their families; and

Whereas increased research, education, and community support services are needed—

- (1) to find more effective treatments; and
- (2) to provide access to quality care for individuals living with Parkinson's disease:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2017 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals living with Parkinson's disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals across the United States working to improve the quality of life for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2017 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SCOTT (for himself and Mr. GRAMHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas, on April 2, 2017, at American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas, the University of South Carolina Gamecocks won the national title game for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament over the Mississippi State Bulldogs by a score of 67 to 55;

Whereas the University of South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball team won the 2017 Southeastern Conference championship;

Whereas the University of South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball team head coach Dawn Staley, a 3-time Olympian who was elected to carry the United States flag at the opening ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics, was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013, and is the new head coach of the United States women's national basketball team, joins

Carolyn Peck as the only 2 African-American female head coaches to lead a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I basketball team to a national title;

Whereas this is the first National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball team, who finished the season with 33 wins and 4 losses;

Whereas A'ja Wilson, who is from Columbia, South Carolina, and an alumna of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, was named Southeastern Conference player of the year and the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship most valuable player;

Whereas the University of South Carolina has been a leader on the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll for last 10 years;

Whereas, each year, University of South Carolina student-athletes support approximately 100 events and organizations for a total of more than 5,000 hours of service;

Whereas A'ja Wilson received First Team All-America recognition from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, and senior center Alaina Coates earned an All-America honorable mention;

Whereas junior Kaela Davis was a College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-District selection;

Whereas University of South Carolina student-athletes earned a departmental grade point average of 3.245 for the Fall 2016 semester, the 20th-consecutive semester in which Gamecock student-athletes have combined for a grade point average above 3.0; and

Whereas the University of South Carolina is ranked number 1 in the United States for attendance at women's basketball games: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of South Carolina women's basketball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament Championship; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of—

(A) the team's players, coaches, and staff, whose hard work and dedication helped the University of South Carolina women's basketball team win that Championship; and

(B) the dedicated faculty and staff of the University of South Carolina for building an educational environment that has helped University of South Carolina student-athletes to thrive.

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS AT VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY ON APRIL 16, 2007

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 142

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 32 victims who lost their lives as a result of the tragic events at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (referred to as "Virginia Tech") on April 16, 2007, Ross A. Alameddine, Christopher James Bishop, Brian R. Bluhm, Ryan Christopher Clark, Austin Michelle Cloyd, Jocelyne Couture-Nowak, Kevin P. Granata, Matthew Gregory Gwaltney, Caitlin Millar Hammaren, Jeremy Michael Herbstritt,

Rachael Elizabeth Hill, Emily Jane Hilscher, Jarrett Lee Lane, Matthew Joseph La Porte, Henry J. Lee, Liviu Librescu, G.V. Loganathan, Partahi Mamora Halomoan Lumbantoruan, Lauren Ashley McCain, Daniel Patrick O'Neil, Juan Ramon Ortiz-Ortiz, Minal Hiralal Panchal, Daniel Alejandro Perez Cueva, Erin Nicole Peterson, Michael Steven Pohle, Jr., Julia Kathleen Pryde, Mary Karen Read, Reema Joseph Samaha, Waleed Mohamed Shaalan, Leslie Geraldine Sherman, Maxine Shelly Turner, and Nicole Regina White;

(2) recognizes the 17 individuals who survived the shooting and supports the continued recovery of those survivors from physical and psychological wounds;

(3) offers condolences to the families and friends of the victims;

(4) expresses hope that the memory of each victim will live on; and

(5) recognizes—

(A) the resilience of the Virginia Tech community in the decade following the tragedy of April 16, 2007; and

(B) that the perseverance of the Virginia Tech community serves as an example to communities that experience similar tragedies.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING FAIR AND EQUITABLE GRADING TREATMENT FOR EXPORTS OF UNITED STATES WHEAT PRODUCTS TO CANADA

Mr. TESTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 143

Whereas Canada is the second-largest goods trading partner of the United States, with \$575,000,000,000 in goods traded between the 2 countries in 2015, as the United States exported \$280,000,000,000 in goods to Canada and imported \$295,000,000,000 in goods from Canada in that year;

Whereas the efficient and equitable flow of agricultural goods across the border is a critical component of the trade relationship between the United States and Canada;

Whereas wheat is the third-most widely produced field crop in the United States, and approximately ½ of the wheat produced in the United States is exported;

Whereas Canadian law requires wheat imported from the United States to be segregated from wheat produced in Canada and automatically designated as feed quality, the lowest possible designation, regardless of the actual quality or the variety of the wheat product;

Whereas United States Federal law allows wheat imported from Canada to be graded under the same system as domestically grown wheat;

Whereas that unfair devaluation practice puts United States agricultural producers at a distinct disadvantage when attempting to access Canadian wheat markets;

Whereas the treatment by Canada of United States wheat products is likely a violation of trade agreements and is to the detriment of United States agricultural producers; and

Whereas the strong economic ties between the United States and Canada are extremely important and well-served when a level playing field exists across all industries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) wheat grading practices in Canada should—

(A) grade wheat produced in Canada in the same manner as wheat produced in the United States; and

(B) be fair to agricultural producers in the United States; and

(2) the President should—

(A) examine whether the wheat grading laws of Canada adhere to trade agreements; and

(B) insist on full access for United States exporters of wheat to the Canadian market.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., in open session, to receive testimony on policy and strategy in the Asia-Pacific.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider the nomination of Robert Lighthizer, of Florida, to be United States Trade Representative.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 9:45 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "The Crisis in Libya: Next Steps and U.S. Policy Options."

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on April 25, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Intellectual Property—Driver of Innovation: Making Our Lives Healthier, Safer, and more Productive."

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, from 2:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern Nicholas Piwonka be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that applicable

committees be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of the following resolutions en bloc: S. Res. 105, S. Res. 122, S. Res. 128, S. Res. 129, S. Res. 130, S. Res. 131, and S. Res. 133.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 128

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in designating April 2017 as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month. Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia, also known as CDH, is a birth defect that occurs when the fetal diaphragm fails to fully develop, allowing abdominal organs to move into the chest cavity and preventing lung growth. When the lungs do not develop properly during pregnancy, it can be difficult for the baby to breathe after birth, or the baby is unable to take in enough oxygen to stay healthy. Congenital diaphragmatic hernia is a birth defect that occurs in 1 out of every 2,500 live births worldwide. Only about 50 percent of CDH cases are diagnosed in utero. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, estimates that CDH affects 1,600 babies in the U.S. each year. Every 10 minutes, a baby is born with CDH, adding up to more than 700,000 babies with CDH since 2000. According to the CDC, babies born with CDH experience a high mortality rate ranging from 20 to 60 percent, depending on the severity of the defect and the treatments available at delivery; yet most people have never heard of CDH.

Researchers are making great progress to determine the cause of this birth defect and to identify optimal treatment methods. In fiscal year 2017, the National Institutes of Health funded approximately \$4 million in CDH research, an increase of \$700,000 from fiscal year 2015. There is still much progress to be made, however. The cause of CDH remains unknown, and there currently is no cure. CDH survivors often endure long-term complications, such as congenital heart defects and developmental delays, and the average CDH survivor will face postnatal care of more than \$100,000.

Last month, members from the Association of Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Research, Awareness and Support, also known as CHERUBS, visited my office. Among them were David and Allison Finger and their daughter Vivienne from Hyattsville, MD. Vivienne was born with CDH and had to spend 60 days in the newborn intensive care unit after birth and had to have surgery to repair the hernia when she was only 3 weeks old. On March 18, 2017, Vivienne celebrated her second birthday and is doing very well. Babies like Vivienne, born with CDH, today have a better chance of survival due to early detection and research on treatment options.