

S. 1697. A bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens and United States Citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1698. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of contributions to Alaska Native Settlement Trusts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1699. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to parental rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 237. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 238. A resolution recognizing the 10th anniversary and honoring the victims of the collapse of the Interstate 35W Mississippi River bridge; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. Res. 239. A resolution congratulating the Pittsburgh Penguins for winning the 2017 Stanley Cup hockey championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 240. A resolution congratulating the University of Florida baseball team for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association College World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 241. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Purple Heart Recognition Day; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 104

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to provide for the

vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

S. 114

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 114, to authorize appropriations and to appropriate amounts for the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve hiring authorities of the Department, to authorize major medical facility leases, and for other purposes.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a public health insurance option, and for other purposes.

S. 236

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 236, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 256

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 322, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 364

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to exempt certain recipients of Department of Agriculture conservation assistance from certain reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 690

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 690, a bill to extend the eligibility of redesignated areas as HUBZones from 3 years to 7 years.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to lower the mileage threshold for deduction in determining adjusted gross income of certain expenses of members of reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 705

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 705, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a national criminal history background check system and criminal history review program for certain individuals who, related to their employment, have access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 720

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, *supra*.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 929

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 929, a bill to improve the HUBZone program.

S. 1038

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1038, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the utilization of small businesses with respect to certain Federal contracts.

S. 1118

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1118, a bill to reauthorize the North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

S. 1196

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1196, a bill to expand the capacity and capability of the ballistic missile defense system of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1270

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1270, a bill to direct the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to carry out programs and activities to ensure that Federal science agencies and institutions of higher education receiving Federal research and development funding are fully engaging their entire talent pool, and for other purposes.

S. 1428

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1428, a bill to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

S. 1522

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1522, a bill to establish an Every Kid Outdoors program, and for other purposes.

S. 1586

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1586, a bill to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

S. 1595

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1595, a bill to amend the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 to impose additional sanctions with respect to Hizballah, and for other purposes.

S. 1598

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1598, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1652

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1652, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 to prevent wage theft and assist in the recovery of stolen wages, to authorize the Secretary of Labor to administer grants to prevent wage and hour violations, and for other purposes.

S. 1674

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DUR-

BIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1674, a bill to provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of public elementary schools and secondary schools, to establish a school infrastructure bond program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution expressing solidarity with Falun Gong practitioners who have lost lives, freedoms, and rights for adhering to their beliefs and practices and condemning the practice of non-consenting organ harvesting, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 233

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 233, a resolution designating August 16, 2017, as "National Airborne Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 436

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 436 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 448

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 448 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 681

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 681 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2810, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1689. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise to talk about the Marijuana Justice Act—a bill I introduced today that would end the Federal prohibition on marijuana and start to end the War on Drugs. For far too long we have ap-

proached drug use and addiction as something we can jail ourselves out of. It is beyond clear that approach has failed. It is time we start to address the persistent and systemic racial bias that has plagued our criminal justice system and adopt policies that will move us forward, not backward. It is time to de-schedule marijuana.

Since 2001, arrests for marijuana have increased across the Country and now account for over 50 percent of all drug arrests in the United States. The ACLU conducted a thorough study of over 8 million marijuana arrests between 2001 and 2010. It found that 88 percent of those were for marijuana possession. Alarming, the study also found that African Americans are 3.73 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than their white peers, even though they use marijuana at similar rates.

Over the last five years, States have begun to legalize marijuana in an effort to push back on the failed War on Drugs and combat the illicit drug market. Currently, eight States and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana and more States are taking up measures to follow suit. We know from the experiences of States that have already legalized marijuana that we will gain far more than we lose—these States have seen increased revenues and decreased rates of serious crime, and a reallocation of resources toward more productive uses. In Colorado, arrest rates have decreased and State revenues have increased. Washington saw a 10 percent decrease in violent crime over the three-year period following legalization.

However, the Federal government still treats marijuana as an illegal substance. It is time for the Federal government to end the Federal prohibition of marijuana.

Today, I introduced the Marijuana Justice Act, a bill that would remove marijuana from the list of controlled substances, thereby ending the Federal prohibition. The bill would also automatically expunge records for people who were convicted of Federal marijuana use and possession offenses. We must help people with criminal records get back up on their feet and obtain jobs, and expunging their records is an important step in that process.

The legislation would allow individuals currently serving time in Federal prison for marijuana offenses to petition a court for a resentencing. One of the greatest tragedies from the Fair Sentencing Act was that it did not provide retroactive relief to individuals serving time under the old crack and powder cocaine sentencing laws. The Marijuana Justice Act would allow people currently serving time for a marijuana offense to seek immediate relief.

The bill would also use Federal funds to encourage States where marijuana is illegal to legalize the drug if they disproportionately arrest or incarcerate low income individuals or people