

Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3508) is amended by striking “Commissioner of Immigration” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 245—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO RELEASE UNJUSTLY DETAINED UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 245

Whereas the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran has taken as hostages several United States citizens, including Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, and Xiyue Wang, as well as United States legal permanent resident alien Nizar Zakka;

Whereas Siamak Namazi was detained on October 15, 2015, falsely accused and convicted on October 18, 2016, for “collaborating with a hostile government,” and has been held for extended periods in solitary confinement and subjected to prolonged interrogation;

Whereas former United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) official Baquer Namazi, the 80-year old father of Siamak Namazi, was detained on February 22, 2016, falsely charged and sentenced to 10 years in prison for the identical crime as his son;

Whereas former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon urged authorities in Iran to release Baquer Namazi, whose health is deteriorating, so his family can care for him;

Whereas UNICEF has issued 4 public statements on Baquer Namazi’s behalf;

Whereas Xiyue Wang, a graduate student at Princeton University, was arrested in Iran on or about August 7, 2016, while studying Farsi and researching the late Qajar dynasty as background for his doctoral dissertation, detained by Iran in Evin prison for almost a year, falsely charged with espionage, and sentenced to 10 years in prison;

Whereas Robert Levinson, a United States citizen and retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, traveled to Kish Island, Iran, and disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas, according to former White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest, the United States Government had “secured a commitment from the Iranians...to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson’s possible whereabouts” but has not received any information thus far;

Whereas Nizar Zakka, a United States legal permanent resident alien and Lebanese national, who is also in poor health, was unlawfully detained around September 18, 2015, after speaking at a conference in Iran at the invitation of Iran, and was later falsely charged with being a spy and sentenced to 10 years at the Evin prison in Iran;

Whereas, on April 13, 2017, the United States Department of the Treasury sanctioned the Tehran Prisons Organization and its former head, Sohrab Soleimani, and former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer noted that “[t]he sanctions against human rights abusers in Iran’s prisons come at a time when Iran continues to unjustly detain in its prisons various foreigners, including U.S. citizens Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi”;

Whereas, on April 25, 2017, at the meeting of the Joint Commission overseeing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Department of State reported that the United States delegation had “raised with the Iranian delegation its serious concerns regarding the cases of U.S. citizens detained and missing in Iran, and called on Iran to immediately release these U.S. citizens so they can be reunited with their families”; and

Whereas reports indicate that the Government of Iran has sought to condition the release of imprisoned nationals and dual-nationals on receipt of economic or political concessions, a practice banned by the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 17, 1979, and acceded to by the Government of Iran on November 20, 2006, and other international legal norms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Iran to release Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, Nizar Zakka, and any other United States citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or foreign national being unjustly detained in Iran;

(2) urges the President to make the release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens held hostage by the Government of Iran the highest of priorities;

(3) requests that the United States and its allies whose nationals and residents have been detained consider establishing a multinational task force to work to secure the release of the detainees;

(4) urges the Government of Iran to take meaningful steps toward fulfilling its repeated promises to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson, including immediately providing all available information from all entities of the Government of Iran regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to the United States Government;

(5) urges the President to take whatever steps are in the national interest to secure the release of Siamak Namazi, Baquer Namazi, Xiyue Wang, Nizar Zakka, and any other United States citizen, legal permanent resident alien, or foreign national being unjustly detained in Iran; and

(6) urges the President to take whatever steps are in the national interest to determine the whereabouts and secure the return of Robert Levinson.

SENATE RESOLUTION 246—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK IN AUGUST 2017 AS “WORLD BREAST-FEEDING WEEK”, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 2017 AS “NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH”

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

S. RES. 246

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that breastfeeding continue for at least 12 months after the birth of a baby and for as long as the mother and baby desire;

Whereas the World Health Organization recommends continued breastfeeding for 2 years or longer after the birth of a baby;

Whereas the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action has designated the first week of August as “World Breastfeeding Week”, and the United States Breastfeeding Committee has designated August as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

Whereas National Breastfeeding Month focuses on how data and measurement can be used to build and reinforce the connections between breastfeeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics and initiatives;

Whereas World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month provide important opportunities to address barriers to breastfeeding faced by families across the United States;

Whereas, according to the [2016] Breastfeeding Report Card of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4 of every 5 mothers, or 81.1 percent of mothers, in the United States start breastfeeding their babies;

Whereas by the end of 6 months after the birth of a baby, breastfeeding rates fall to 51.8 percent, and only 22.3 percent of babies are exclusively breastfed at 6 months of age;

Whereas 2 of every 3 mothers report that they are unable to reach their personal breastfeeding goals;

Whereas there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding initiation and duration;

Whereas, in 2013, 84.3 percent of non-Hispanic White infants initiated breastfeeding, as compared to—

(1) 66.3 percent of non-Hispanic Black infants; and

(2) 68.3 percent of non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native infants;

Whereas the Healthy People 2020 objectives for breastfeeding are that—

(1) 82 percent of babies are breastfed at some time;

(2) 61 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 6 months; and

(3) 34 percent of babies continue to be breastfed at 1 year;

Whereas breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness;

Whereas the evidence of the value of breastfeeding to the health of women and children is scientific, solid, and continually reaffirmed by new research;

Whereas, during the first year of the life of a baby, a family that follows optimal breastfeeding practices can save between \$1,200 and \$1,500 in expenses on infant formula;

Whereas a 2016 study of maternal and pediatric health outcomes and associated costs based on 2012 breastfeeding rates indicates that if 90 percent of infants were breastfed according to medical recommendations, 3,340 deaths, \$3,000,000,000 in medical costs, and \$14,200,000,000 in costs relating to premature death would be prevented annually; and

Whereas the great majority of pregnant women and new mothers want to breastfeed but face significant barriers in community, health care, and employment settings: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of August 2017 as “World Breastfeeding Week”;

(2) designates August 2017 as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

(3) supports the goals of National Breastfeeding Month; and

(4) supports policies and funding to ensure that all mothers who choose to breastfeed can access a full range of appropriate support from health care institutions, health care insurers, employers, and government entities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 247—DESIGNATING JULY 29, 2017, AS “PARALYMPIC AND ADAPTIVE SPORT DAY”

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

S. RES. 247

Whereas, in 2015, roughly 53,000,000 people in the United States reported living with some type of impairment;

Whereas, in 2015, roughly 3,800,000 veterans in the United States reported living with a service-related disability;

Whereas adaptive sports for individuals with impairments have existed for more than 100 years;

Whereas, after World War II, adaptive sports were widely introduced in order to assist the large number of World War II veterans and civilians that were injured during wartime;

Whereas July 29, 1948, marks the date of the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games in Stoke Mandeville, United Kingdom, where Dr. Ludwig Guttmann organized the first wheelchair competition for service men and women injured in World War II (also known as the “Stoke Mandeville Games”);

Whereas the Stoke Mandeville Games, in 2017, ultimately evolved into the Paralympic Games and include athletes with physical, visual, and intellectual impairments;

Whereas the International Paralympic Movement celebrates values such as courage, determination, inspiration, and equality, and works to enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world;

Whereas Paralympians in the United States continue to achieve competitive excellence, preserve ideals and values of the International Paralympic Movement, and inspire all people in the United States;

Whereas 18 veterans were members of Team USA at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games held in Sochi, Krasnodar Krai, Russia, and 35 veterans were members of Team USA at the 2016 Paralympic Summer Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

Whereas participation in the Paralympic Games, other adaptive sport competitions, and athletic reconditioning activities such as the Paralympic Military Program plays a fundamental role for members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are reintegrating into civilian life, and can enable those individuals to gain a new purpose in life by extending their physical limits during rehabilitation in order to rebuild and recover personal identity, formulate adaptive strategies for life, and achieve athletic excellence;

Whereas a celebration of Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day will improve communities in the United States and uplift and inspire the Paralympic champions of the future;

Whereas Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day will encourage the youth in the United States to participate in and support the practical inclusion of all people in sports; and

Whereas Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day creates awareness of and understanding toward individuals with impairments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 29, 2017, as “Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day”;

(2) supports the inclusive goals and ideals of the International Paralympic Movement, as well as opportunities for individuals with impairments to be full contributing participants in society;

(3) acknowledges the extraordinary contribution and sacrifice made by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who have sustained a traumatic injury and impairment while serving the United States;

(4) promotes a more inclusive society for all individuals with impairments through Paralympic and adaptive sports throughout the United States; and

(5) promotes the values of the International Paralympic Movement, including courage, determination, inspiration, and equality.

SENATE RESOLUTION 248—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT FLOWERS GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES SUPPORT THE FARMERS, SMALL BUSINESSES, JOBS, AND ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES, THAT FLOWER FARMING IS AN HONORABLE VOCATION, AND DESIGNATING JULY AS “AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH”

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

S. RES. 248

Whereas cut flower growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the nation;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and greens grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend almost \$27,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas nearly 30 percent of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and greens from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments each year;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers they purchase are grown;

Whereas in response to increased demand, the “Certified American Grown Flowers” logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers from domestic producers;

Whereas as of April 2017, millions of stems of domestically grown flowers are now “Certified American Grown”;

Whereas domestic flower farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, and larkspur in Texas;

Whereas the 5 flower varieties with the highest United States production are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolus and irises;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers, yet only 1 of 5 flowers sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower industry creates almost \$42,000,000 in economic impact daily and supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas more people in the United States are expressing interest in growing flowers locally, which has resulted in an approxi-

mately 20 percent increase in the number of domestic cut flower farms between 2007 and 2012;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and greens are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births, and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower-giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother’s Day; and to the spirit of love on Valentine’s Day;

Whereas flowers are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers help commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers in the United States by domestic flower farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2017 as “American Grown Flower Month”;

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and greens in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and greens grown in the United States in order to show support for our flower farmers, processors, and distributors as well as agriculture in the United States overall.

SENATE RESOLUTION 249—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2017 AS “NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH” TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 249

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of, and increasing support for, organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character