

S. 1859

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1859, a bill to extend the moratorium on the annual fee on health insurance providers.

S. 1953

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1953, a bill to amend the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1981

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1981, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to expedite approval of exports of small volumes of natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 2019

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2019, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other statutes to clarify appropriate liability standards for Federal anti-discrimination claims.

S. RES. 250

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 250, a resolution condemning horrific acts of violence against Burma's Rohingya population and calling on Aung San Suu Kyi to play an active role in ending this humanitarian tragedy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2017 AND 2018 EACH AS “NATIONAL MONTH FOR RENTERS”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 312

Whereas rental housing is a vital component of the housing market of the United States, providing a place to live for nearly 44,000,000 households and more than 111,000,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas the number of households renting homes increased by 9,000,000 over the past decade, the largest 10-year gain on record;

Whereas more than 11,000,000 households in communities across the United States spend more than 50 percent of their income on rent and utilities, making those households severely cost-burdened under Federal standards; and

Whereas those 11,000,000 severely cost-burdened households include 14,000,000 women, 8,000,000 children, 9,000,000 members of the Millennial Generation, 2,000,000 senior citizens, and nearly 800,000 veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of September 2017 and 2018 each as “National Month for Renters” to draw attention to the rental housing shortage in the United States;

(2) urges a truly national effort involving all levels of government, the private sector, and the philanthropic community to expand the supply of rental homes affordable to low- and moderate-income households;

(3) recognizes that subsidized rental housing programs implemented by the Federal Government only serve ¼ of eligible renters and so are the equivalent of a lottery; and

(4) recognizes that expanding the supply of rental homes affordable to low- and moderate-income families, particularly when close to employment opportunities, will—

(A) help reduce commuting costs;

(B) restore the first rungs of the housing ladder;

(C) stabilize families and communities;

(D) promote equality of opportunity; and

(E) support greater economic growth and prosperity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 30 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3, 2017, AS “NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK”

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

S. RES. 313

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States train individuals with the skills, discipline, and leadership necessary to establish and operate a successful business;

Whereas there are approximately 2,500,000 veteran-owned small businesses in the United States, employing more than 5,000,000 individuals;

Whereas veteran-owned businesses make up nearly 10 percent of all businesses in the United States;

Whereas veterans account for more than \$1,100,000,000,000 in business receipts every year;

Whereas veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed than nonveterans;

Whereas business ownership by women veterans has increased significantly, from 97,114 in 2007 to 383,302 in 2012;

Whereas the Office of Veterans Business Development of the Small Business Administration is dedicated to maximizing the availability and usability of small business programs for veterans, members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving on active duty, transitioning service members, and the spouses, dependents, or survivors of those members and veterans;

Whereas the Small Business Administration serves more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans, women veterans, and military spouses annually;

Whereas the entrepreneurship training program of the Small Business Administration, Boots to Business, has trained more than 30,000 service members, veterans, and spouses of service members and veterans since launching in 2013;

Whereas the Small Business Administration hosts events honoring National Veterans Small Business Week from October 30 through November 3, 2017;

Whereas the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives celebrate National Vet-

erans Small Business Week during the week of October 30 through November 3, 2017; and Whereas the week of October 30 through November 3, 2017, would be an appropriate time to celebrate National Veterans Small Business Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 30 through November 3, 2017, as “National Veterans Small Business Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Veterans Small Business Week;

(3) celebrates the millions of people in the United States, especially veterans of the United States and the spouses of those veterans, who benefit from the programs of the Small Business Administration; and

(4) expresses appreciation for the continued service to the United States by the veterans of the United States through small business ownership and entrepreneurship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 314—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2017, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WORKERS

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 314

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for developing a nuclear weapons program at the service, and for the benefit of, the United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014;

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015; and

(8) Senate Resolution 560, 114th Congress, agreed to November 16, 2016;

Whereas a national day of remembrance time capsule has been crossing the United States, collecting stories and artifacts of nuclear weapons program workers relating to the nuclear defense era of the United States, and a remembrance quilt has been constructed to memorialize the contribution of those workers;

Whereas the stories and artifacts reflected in the time capsule and the remembrance quilt reinforce the importance of recognizing nuclear weapons program workers; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2017, as a national day of remembrance for the nuclear weapons program and uranium enrichment workers of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2017, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers in the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 2 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 FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, October 30, 2017, at 5 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the Authorization for the Use of Military Force.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, October 30, 2017, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of: Emily Webster Murphy, of Missouri, to be Administrator of the General Services Administration.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE AND PERSECUTION IN CHECHNYA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 243, S. Res. 211.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) condemning the violence and persecution in Chechnya.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas, on April 1, 2017, the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta reported that authorities in Chechnya, a republic of the Russian Federation, had abducted, detained, and tortured over 100 men due to their actual or suspected sexual orientation;

Whereas multiple independent and first-hand accounts have subsequently corroborated the Novaya Gazeta report, and describe a campaign of persecution by Chechen officials against men

due to their actual or suspected sexual orientation;

Whereas, as a result of this persecution, at least three deaths have been reported and many individuals have been forced to flee Chechnya;

Whereas Chechen officials have denied the existence of such persecution, including through a statement by the spokesman for Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov that "You cannot arrest or repress people who just don't exist in the republic.";

Whereas the same spokesman for Ramzan Kadyrov has also stated that "If such people existed in Chechnya, law enforcement would not have to worry about them, as their own relatives would have sent them to where they could never return," and credible reports indicate that Chechen authorities have encouraged families to carry out so-called "honor killings" of relatives due to their actual or suspected sexual orientation;

Whereas Chechnya is a republic of the Russian Federation and subject to its laws, and Ramzan Kadyrov was installed as the leader of Chechnya by Russian President Vladimir Putin;

Whereas Chechen authorities have a long history of violating the fundamental human rights of their citizens, including through extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, and torture of government critics;

Whereas Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov dismissed reports of persecution in Chechnya and termed them "phantom complaints";

Whereas the Russian Federation is a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and thus has agreed to guarantee the fundamental human rights of all of its citizens;

Whereas, on April 7, 2017, the United States Department of State issued a statement saying "We categorically condemn the persecution of individuals based on their sexual orientation" and urging the Government of the Russian Federation to take steps to ensure the release of all those wrongfully detained in Chechnya, and to conduct a credible investigation of the reports; and

Whereas, on April 17, 2017, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley issued a statement saying "Chechen authorities must immediately investigate these allegations, hold anyone involved accountable, and take steps to prevent future abuses. We are against all forms of discrimination, including against people based on sexual orientation. When left unchecked, discrimination and human rights abuses can lead to destabilization and conflict." Now, therefore, be it

That the Senate—

(1) condemns the violence and persecution in Chechnya and calls on Chechen officials to immediately cease the abduction, detention, and torture of individuals on the basis of their actual or suspected sexual orientation, and hold accountable all those involved in perpetrating such abuses;

(2) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to protect the human rights of all its citizens, condemn the violence and persecution, investigate the allegations in Chechnya, and hold accountable all those involved in perpetrating such abuses;

(3) calls on the United States Government to continue to condemn the violence and persecution in Chechnya, demand the release of individuals wrongfully detained, and identify those individuals whose involvement in this violence qualifies for the imposition of sanctions under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) or the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (Public Law 114-328); and

(4) affirms the fundamental human rights to peaceful assembly, freedom of association and expression, and freedom from arbitrary detention and torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrad-

ing treatment, and that governments that fail to respect these rights jeopardize the security and prosperity of all their citizens.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the resolution be agreed to.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the resolution?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution, as amended.

The resolution (S. Res. 211), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 75.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 75) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the largest organization of food and nutrition professionals in the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 75) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 1, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")