

300gg(a)(1), 300gg-4(b)) must now be struck down as not severable from the individual responsibility provision: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the Senate in Texas v. United States, No. 4:18-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.), including seeking to—

(1) intervene as a party in the matter; and
(2) defend all provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the amendments made by that Act to other provisions of law, and any amendments to such provisions, including the provisions ensuring affordable health coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 582—PROTECTING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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

S. RES. 582

Whereas Senator John McCain stated, “[It] was one of the most disgraceful performances by an American president in memory. The damage inflicted by President Trump’s naiveté, egotism, false equivalence, and sympathy for autocrats is difficult to calculate. But it is clear that the summit in Helsinki was a tragic mistake.”;

Whereas, on July 17, 2018, in response to the international backlash, President Trump, while claiming he misspoke and blaming the media for reporting what he said, still sowed doubt about the electoral interference by the Russian Federation by claiming it “could be other people also” and not just the Russian Federation;

Whereas the United States faces an unprecedented situation in which the President of the United States refuses to acknowledge an attack on the democracy of the United States;

Whereas the Russian Federation has been interfering not only in the elections of the United States, but also in the elections of other democracies, such as the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, to name a few;

Whereas the goal of the Russian Federation is to advance its own interests by weakening the transatlantic alliance of democracies that arose after the Second World War, while also inflaming internal divisions in each of those countries;

Whereas, on July 13, 2018, Special Counsel Robert Mueller announced indictments of 12 members of the military intelligence service of the Russian Federation known as the Glavnoe Razvedyvatel’noe Upravlenie (referred to in this preamble as the “GRU”);

Whereas, on July 13, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats raised the alarm on growing cyberattack threats against the United States in a range of areas, including Federal, State, and local government agencies, the military, business, and academia, stating that the situation is at a “critical point”, adding, “In regards to state actions, Russia has been the most aggressive foreign actor. No question. And they continue their efforts to undermine our democracy.”, and comparing the warning signs to the signs the United States faced ahead of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the cyberattacks by the Russian Federation represent a threat to the democratic system of the United States and the democratic systems of the allies of the United States;

Whereas, domestically, President Putin has undermined democracy in the Russian Federation, crushing free speech, jailing political opponents, harassing and assassinating journalists who criticize him, and in-

creasingly persecuting ethnic and religious minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer citizens;

Whereas, in terms of foreign policy, the Russian Federation has meddled in the elections of democratic countries, stoking political tensions by promoting hatred and suspicion of immigrants and minorities, and trying to undermine longstanding alliances between democratic allies;

Whereas, in 2014, in violation of international law, the Russian Federation invaded neighboring Ukraine, and annexed the Crimea region;

Whereas the Russian Federation has assassinated political opponents abroad, most recently through the use of poison in Salisbury, England, on a former spy and his daughter, an atrocious chemical attack that endangered the lives of hundreds of civilians and which, according to news reports, the Government of the United Kingdom concluded was likely carried out by the GRU; and

Whereas President Trump had an opportunity to raise the issues described in the preceding clauses with President Putin at the July 16, 2018, summit in Helsinki, Finland, but chose not to: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) accepts the assessment of the United States intelligence community with regard to interference by the Russian Federation in elections in the United States and in other democracies;

(2) must move aggressively to protect the election systems of the United States from interference by the Russian Federation or any other foreign power, and work closely with the democratic partners of the United States to do the same for elections in those countries;

(3) demands that the sanctions against the Russian Federation that were enacted in the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44; 131 Stat. 886) be fully implemented by the President;

(4) will not accept any interference with the ongoing investigation of Special Counsel Robert Mueller, such as the offer of preemptive pardons or the firing of Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein; and

(5) declares that the President must cooperate with the investigation of Special Counsel Mueller.

SENATE RESOLUTION 583—COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR ITS INVESTIGATION INTO THE INTERFERENCE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE 2016 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, AND MAINTAINING THAT THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS ACTIONS

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

S. RES. 583

Whereas, on July 13, 2018, an investigation of the Department of Justice resulted in the indictment of 12 officials of the Government of the Russian Federation for interfering with the 2016 United States presidential election;

Whereas, on July 13, 2018, when speaking about the digital infrastructure of the United States being under attack from foreign actors, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats stated, “In regards to state actions, Russia has been the most aggressive

foreign actor. No question. And they continue their efforts to undermine our democracy.”; and

Whereas, on July 16, 2018, in a joint press conference in Helsinki, Finland, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, denied that the Russian Federation interfered in the 2016 United States presidential election: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Department of Justice for its thorough investigation into the interference in the 2016 United States presidential election, which resulted in the indictment of 12 intelligence officers of the Government of the Russian Federation;

(2) agrees with the assessment of the United States intelligence community that the Russian Federation interfered with the 2016 United States presidential election, and rejects the Russian Federation’s denial of such involvement;

(3) reaffirms its position that the Russian Federation must be held accountable for interfering in the 2016 United States presidential election;

(4) calls upon relevant committees of the Senate to exercise congressional oversight, including prompt hearings and the release of relevant notes and information, to better understand the impact of the recent summit in Helsinki, Finland, on the foreign policy and national security of the United States; and

(5) calls for the immediate and full implementation of mandatory sanctions provided for in the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44; 131 Stat. 886), which passed the Senate 98-2, to deter and punish election interference by the Russian Federation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 584—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE AGAINST THE MAKING AVAILABLE OF CURRENT AND FORMER DIPLOMATS, OFFICIALS, AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FOR QUESTIONING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF VLADIMIR PUTIN

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 584

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should refuse to make available any current or former diplomat, civil servant, political appointee, law enforcement official, or member of the Armed Forces of the United States for questioning by the government of Vladimir Putin.

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS JOHN F. KENNEDY

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. Kaine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 585

Whereas the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) was named in honor of the 35th president of the United States;

Whereas, on May 27, 1967, President John F. Kennedy's 9-year-old daughter, Caroline Kennedy, christened the USS John F. Kennedy at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in Newport News, Virginia;

Whereas, on September 7, 1968, during the height of the Cold War, the USS John F. Kennedy entered service at its home port of Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia, as the only ship of her class and the last conventionally powered carrier built for the United States Navy;

Whereas the USS John F. Kennedy was a stalwart of the Atlantic Fleet of the United States Navy, sailing to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, and across the Arctic and Pacific Oceans;

Whereas, on March 28, 1977, the USS John F. Kennedy became the first United States aircraft carrier to make a port call at Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia;

Whereas, on December 4, 1983, the USS John F. Kennedy launched 10 aircraft to bomb Syrian anti-aircraft and artillery positions near Hammama, Lebanon, in response to attacks against aircraft of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas, on July 3 and 4, 1986, the USS John F. Kennedy hosted more than 8,000 people during the International Naval Review honoring the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty and hosted President Ronald Reagan on Independence Day;

Whereas, on January 4, 1989, the USS John F. Kennedy launched two F-14 aircraft from Fighter Squadron 32 to intercept and destroy 2 hostile MiG-23s from the Libyan Air Force;

Whereas, on December 29, 1990, the USS John F. Kennedy entered port in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as the first United States aircraft carrier to visit Saudi Arabia;

Whereas, on January 17, 1991, the USS John F. Kennedy launched its first strikes in Operation Desert Storm as part of a multi-country coalition to drive the military of Iraq out of neighboring Kuwait;

Whereas, from the beginning of hostilities on January 16, 1991, to their cessation on February 28, 1991, the USS John F. Kennedy launched 2,895 aircraft sorties, which struck 114 targets, delivered 3,500,000 pounds of ordnance, and provided 11,263 aircraft combat hours;

Whereas, on September 22, 1995, the USS John F. Kennedy was transferred to Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida, as the new home port of the vessel;

Whereas, on November 1, 1999, the USS John F. Kennedy became the first United States aircraft carrier to make a port call in Al Aqabah, Jordan, and hosted the King of Jordan;

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, the USS John F. Kennedy was called upon to secure the mid-Atlantic seaboard to "help calm a fearful and shocked nation";

Whereas, from March 11 to July 17, 2002, the USS John F. Kennedy deployed and launched strikes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and those strikes dropped 64,000 pounds of ordnance on Taliban and Al Qaeda targets;

Whereas, from July 10 to November 20, 2004, the USS John F. Kennedy deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and launched 8,296 aircraft sorties, which dropped 54,000 pounds of ordnance;

Whereas, on December 13, 2004, the USS John F. Kennedy returned from its 21st and final deployment;

Whereas the USS John F. Kennedy was decommissioned at her final homeport of Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida, on March 23, 2007, stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on October 16, 2009, and lays in wait at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, pending

final disposition or the call to serve again in the United States Navy; and

Whereas, from August 23 to 26, 2018, the former crews and supporters of the USS John F. Kennedy will meet in Norfolk, Virginia, to honor the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the vessel: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67); and

(2) honors the USS John F. Kennedy, its crew, and all of the courageous sailors and Marines of the United States who have served on board in the past.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—HONORING THE 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION HELD IN THE UNITED STATES IN SENECA FALLS, NEW YORK

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 586

Whereas 2018 marks the 170th anniversary of the first women's rights convention held in the United States in Seneca Falls, New York, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott;

Whereas the momentum created by organized women in the 1800s led to the first women's rights convention and the passing of the Declaration of Sentiments in Seneca Falls, New York;

Whereas, at Seneca Falls, New York, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments, a plea for the end of discrimination against women;

Whereas the Declaration of Sentiments offered at Seneca Falls, New York, was modeled after the Declaration of Independence and declared that "all men and women are created equal", linking women's rights directly to the founding ideals of the United States;

Whereas women's suffrage activists tirelessly worked together to form organizations that raised public awareness, resulting in the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1920, guaranteeing all women of the United States the right to vote;

Whereas, in 2018, women have made giant leaps in the cause for gender equality, yet still struggle daily for equal treatment;

Whereas women of the United States earn only 80 cents for every dollar earned by men of the United States;

Whereas women constitute 50.8 percent of the population of the United States but only 20 percent of the 115th Congress; and

Whereas empowering women offers tremendous opportunity for economic and social progress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of the 170th anniversary of the first women's rights convention held in the United States;

(2) promotes meaningful participation of women in every sector of society; and

(3) supports policy measures that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have 7 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Kathleen Laura Kraninger, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and Kimberly A. Reed, of West Virginia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Mary Bridget Neumayr, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and John Fleming, of Louisiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Charles P. Rettig, of California, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury.

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 Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on following nominations: Dennis Dean Kirk, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, and Andrew F. Maunz, of Ohio, both to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and Carmen Guericcio McLean, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 19, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, David James Porter, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for