

to the ballot box for all people of the United States;

(4) contributing to the enactment and enforcement of the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.);

(5) working to combat the scourge of hate crimes and racially motivated violence impacting communities;

(6) joining the movement to end apartheid in the Republic of South Africa by fighting against human rights abuses and representing political dissidents in the courts for more than 30 years and through the open elections in 1994;

(7) working to develop and enact the Civil Rights Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-166; 105 Stat. 1071), which advanced the rights of workers in employment discrimination claims; and

(8) joining relief efforts during the humanitarian crisis caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 by helping survivors navigate legal matters, including government disaster assistance and insurance claims; and

Whereas the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, in collaboration with its 8 local affiliates across the country, continues to spearhead the struggle against hatred and oppression and pursue equal justice for all through the rule of law, particularly disenfranchised communities that are disproportionately comprised of the economically disadvantaged and people of color: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Boston, Massachusetts-based Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice; and

(2) expresses gratitude to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and all of its 8 local affiliates for their work to advance civil rights and their dedication to the pursuit of equal justice under the law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 647—CALLING FOR THE GLOBAL REPEAL OF BLASPHEMY, HERESY, AND APOSTASY LAWS

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

S. RES. 647

Whereas Article 18 of the International Declaration of Human Rights states that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”;

Whereas many countries continue to have criminal blasphemy laws and punish people who engage in expression deemed by the government to be blasphemous, heretical, apostate, defamatory of religion, or insulting to religion or to religious symbols, figures, or feelings, and such punishment can include fines, imprisonment, and capital punishment including by beheading;

Whereas blasphemy laws have affected Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Baha'i, secularists, and many other groups, and are inconsistent with international human rights standards because they establish and promote official religious orthodoxy and dogma over individual liberty, and often result in violations of the freedoms of religion, thought, and expression that are protected under international instruments, including Articles 18 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Committee stated in General Comment 34 that “[p]rohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are incompatible with the [ICCPR]”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has found that blasphemy charges are often based on false accusations, are used for sectarian or political purposes, and foster religious intolerance, discrimination, and violence;

Whereas the Pew Research Center has found that 44 countries had blasphemy laws as of 2012;

Whereas these laws were present in 14 Middle East and North African countries, 11 countries in the Americas, 9 Asia-Pacific countries, 7 European countries, and 3 Sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the Pew Research Center also found that countries with laws against blasphemy, apostasy, or defamation of religion were more likely to have severe governmental restrictions on religion, and to experience social hostilities based on religion, than countries that did not have such laws;

Whereas an international group of experts convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended in 2012 that “[s]tates that have blasphemy laws should repeal the[m] as such laws have a stifling impact on the enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief and healthy dialogue and debate about religion”;

Whereas blasphemy laws are inconsistent with United Nations resolutions adopted by consensus since 2011 recognizing that religious intolerance is best fought through positive measures, such as education, outreach, and counter-speech, and that criminalization of speech is warranted only for the prevention of imminent violence;

Whereas, according to the annual religious freedom report published by the Department of State in 2015, attackers in Bangladesh killed five allegedly anti-Islamic or secularist writers and publishers, and injured three others;

Whereas, in response to these killings, the Home Minister of Bangladesh, rather than condemning the murders, called on bloggers and others to refrain from writings that could hurt the religious feelings of others and added that violators of the warning would be subject to prosecution under the restrictive religious freedom laws of Bangladesh;

Whereas a 2016 report by USCIRF on Bangladesh found that religious and civil society groups fear that increasing religious extremism will result in more criminal attacks and threats;

Whereas restrictive religious freedom laws validate and promote social violence targeted at religious minorities and dissenters, whether Christian, Muslim, secularist, or other;

Whereas USCIRF has found that in Pakistan, blasphemy laws have been used to prosecute and persecute Muslims, Christians, secularists, and others;

Whereas, according to a Pew Center report on religion and public life, Pakistan stands out for having one of the highest levels of restrictions on religion when both government restrictions and social hostilities are taken into account;

Whereas USCIRF has found egregious examples of the enforcement of blasphemy laws and vigilante violence connected to blasphemy allegations in Pakistan, where blasphemy charges are common and numerous individuals are in prison, with a high percentage sentenced to death or to life in prison;

Whereas, as of February 2015, USCIRF is aware of 18 individuals on death row for blasphemy in Pakistan and 20 serving life sentences;

Whereas Asia Bibi was sentenced to death for blasphemy in 2010, and the Lahore High Court upheld the conviction in late 2014, and her case is on appeal to the Supreme Court of Pakistan;

Whereas blasphemy laws in Pakistan have fostered a climate of impunity, as those who falsify evidence go unpunished and allegations often result in violent mob attacks or assassinations, with little to no police response;

Whereas, in 2017, the Christian Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was convicted for blasphemy of Islam and sentenced to two years in jail;

Whereas the application of blasphemy laws is on the rise in Europe;

Whereas blasphemy laws in the United States were invalidated by the adoption of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which protects the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, and religious exercise; and

Whereas the United States has become a beacon of religious freedom and tolerance around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws inappropriately position governments as arbiters of religious truth and empower officials to impose religious dogma on individuals or minorities through the power of the government or through violence sanctioned by the government;

(2) calls on the President and the Secretary of State to make the repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws a priority in the bilateral relationships of the United States with all countries that have such laws, through direct interventions in bilateral and multilateral fora;

(3) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to oppose—

(A) any efforts, by the United Nations or by other international or multilateral fora, to create an international anti-blasphemy norm, such as the “defamation of religions” resolutions introduced in the United Nations between 1999 and 2010; and

(B) any attempts to expand the international norm on incitement to include blasphemy or defamation of religions;

(4) supports efforts by the United Nations to combat intolerance, discrimination, or violence against persons based on religion or belief without restricting expression, including United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 (2011) and the Istanbul Process meetings pursuant to such resolution, that are consistent with the First Amendment to the Constitution;

(5) calls on the President and the Secretary of State to designate countries that enforce blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy laws as “countries of particular concern for religious freedom” under section 402(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)(ii)) for engaging in or tolerating severe violations of religious freedom, as a result of the abuses flowing from the enforcement of such laws and from unpunished vigilante violence often generated by blasphemy allegations;

(6) urges the governments of countries that enforce blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy laws to amend or repeal such laws, as they provide pretext and impunity for vigilante violence against religious minorities; and

(7) urges the governments of countries that have prosecuted, imprisoned, and persecuted people on charges of blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy to release such people unconditionally and, once released, to ensure their safety and that of their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 648—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2018 AS “PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HATCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 648

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and ultimately fatal lung condition that causes progressive scarring in the lungs and has no definitive cause;

Whereas as many as 200,000 individuals in the United States are known to suffer from pulmonary fibrosis, the majority of whom are aged 50 and older;

Whereas the average life expectancy from the diagnosis of the idiopathic form of pulmonary fibrosis is just 2.8 years, and as many as 80 percent of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years of diagnosis;

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis takes the lives of 40,000 or more individuals in the United States each year—approximately 1 individual every 13 minutes;

Whereas many patients afflicted with pulmonary fibrosis are misdiagnosed for 1 year or longer after the patients are presenting with pulmonary fibrosis symptoms;

Whereas, as of July 2018, there are no confirmed biomarkers for screening and testing for pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas a cure, treatment, or drug to halt the fibrotic process in pulmonary fibrosis does not yet exist;

Whereas the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis vary from person to person and include shortness of breath, a dry cough, fatigue, weight loss, and aching muscles and joints;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and for the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and providing access to quality care to individuals with pulmonary fibrosis requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2018 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support more robust and accelerated research to develop more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and to ultimately find a cure for the disease;

(4) recognizes the courage and contributions of individuals with pulmonary fibrosis 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 in the United States and abroad working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and the families of those individuals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 649—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN VITICULTURAL AREAS AND WINEGROWING REGIONS

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 649

Whereas wineries and vintners in the United States contribute to the economic and cultural life of the United States;

Whereas the economic contributions of wineries and vintners in the United States are significant and expansive, and are attributable to the activities of growers, suppliers, researchers, marketers, wholesalers, distributors, retailers, and others;

Whereas the wine industry in the United States is estimated to have directly and indirectly generated more than \$219,000,000,000 for the economy of the United States in 2017;

Whereas there are more than 10,000 wineries operating in all 50 States;

Whereas many of those wineries are small businesses and family owned;

Whereas the wine industry directly employs nearly 1,000,000 people in the United States and supports nearly 300,000 jobs in industries that supply goods and services to winegrowers and wineries;

Whereas the wages earned by people directly employed by wineries and the wine industry totaled more than \$33,000,000,000 in 2017;

Whereas wineries and wine regions drive economic activity through the production, distribution, and sale of wine, and attract substantial tourism-related interest and spending;

Whereas wine regions in the United States host more than 43,000,000 tourists and generate nearly \$18,000,000,000 in tourism expenditures each year;

Whereas wine tourism supported 375,000 jobs that paid more than \$10,000,000,000 in wages in 2017;

Whereas an American Viticultural Area (referred to in this preamble as an “AVA”) is a designated wine-growing region in the United States that has distinguishing features that affect viticulture, including climate, geology, soil, physical features, and elevation;

Whereas 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of the Decision of the Department of the Treasury to establish the AVA designation system;

Whereas the first AVA was approved on June 20, 1980, in Augusta, Missouri;

Whereas the State of Missouri—

(1) has a history of wine production that dates back to the first half of the 19th century; and

(2) is part of 5 AVAs, including the Hermann, Loess Hills District, Ozark Highlands, and Ozark Mountain areas;

Whereas the first AVA in the State of Oregon was approved on December 1, 1983, as the Willamette Valley AVA;

Whereas the State of Oregon—

(1) has a history of growing wine grapes that dates back to 1847; and

(2) is part of the following 18 AVAs: the Applegate Valley, Chehalem Mountains, Columbia Gorge, Columbia Valley, Dundee Hills, Elkton Oregon, Eola-Amity Hills, McMinnville, Red Hill Douglas County, Ribbon Ridge, the Rocks District of Milton-Freewater, Rogue Valley, Snake River Valley, Southern Oregon, Umpqua Valley, Walla Walla Valley, Willamette Valley, and Yamhill-Carlton District areas;

Whereas, as of August 15, 2018, there are 242 AVAs in the United States, which are located in the following 33 States: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin;

Whereas at least 85 percent of a wine must be derived from grapes grown within the boundaries of an AVA in order to use the AVA name on the label for that wine;

Whereas an AVA designation—

(1) allows vintners to describe more accurately the origin of the wine;

(2) helps vintners build and enhance the reputation and value of the wine produced;

(3) allows consumers to attribute a given quality, reputation, or other characteristic to a wine made from grapes grown in an AVA; and

(4) helps consumers identify wines to purchase;

Whereas an appellation of origin, such as an AVA designation, can assist wine producers in the United States in establishing distinctive names of places in the United States in global markets and create valuable export opportunities;

Whereas wine exports generated more than \$1,600,000,000 for producers in the United States in 2017, which is a 4-fold increase over the past 20 years;

Whereas the protection of an AVA term, or other appellation of origin, in a foreign country helps vintners effectively promote products and increases awareness of the region of origin;

Whereas the wine industry of the United States is growing and accounts for 10 percent of global wine production;

Whereas wine-growing regions and wine growers in the United States—

(1) contribute to the economic prosperity of the United States; and

(2) enhance the cultural prestige of the United States by developing and sharing wines that are recognized throughout the world;

Whereas consumers in the United States have benefitted from the rich diversity and extraordinary quality of wines and wine-growing regions in the United States; and

Whereas responsibly enjoying wine often serves to enhance the richness of life and brings family and friends closer together: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions made by wines and distinctive wine-growing regions in the United States to the economic and cultural life of the United States;

(2) recognizes the value created in domestic and foreign markets by promoting wines from distinctive wine-growing regions in the United States, including wines protected by an American Viticultural Area designation or other appellation of origin; and

(3) supports efforts to promote awareness of and appreciation for distinctive wine-growing regions in the United States both in the United States and abroad.

SENATE RESOLUTION 650—RECOGNIZING THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE HARVEY

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 650

Whereas, on August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey reached the shores of the United States and wreaked havoc on the States of Texas and Louisiana;

Whereas, because of Hurricane Harvey, the President issued a major disaster declaration with respect to Texas on August 25, 2017, and with respect to Louisiana on August 28, 2017;

Whereas Hurricane Harvey was directly responsible for the deaths of not less than 68 individuals in Texas;

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the