

Whereas authorities continue to arrest and harass Christians in Zhejiang Province, including by requiring Christian churches to install surveillance cameras to enable daily police monitoring of their activities;

Whereas there is an ongoing campaign by the Government of the People's Republic of China to remove crosses and demolish churches;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China considers several Christian groups to be "evil cults";

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China restricts religious education in institutions across the country, including the ability of Muslims and Christians to speak about their faith among university students, as well as strictly banning meetings of student religious organizations;

Whereas national printing regulations restrict the publication and distribution of literature with religious content, allowing for religious texts published without authorization, including Bibles and Qurans, to be confiscated, and unauthorized publishing houses, closed;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China limits distribution of Bibles to patriotic religious association entities, and because individuals cannot order Bibles directly from publishing houses, unregistered churches have reported that the supply and distribution of Bibles is inadequate;

Whereas authorities in China continue to limit the number of Christian titles that can be published annually, with draft manuscripts closely reviewed;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to cite concerns over the "three evils" of "ethnic separatism, religious extremism, and violent terrorism" as grounds to enact and enforce restrictions on religious practices of Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region (XUAR), including Uighurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Hui, and Tajiks;

Whereas it is estimated that hundreds of thousands of Uighur Muslims and members of other Muslim minority groups have been forcibly sent to reeducation centers, and extensive and invasive security and surveillance practices have been instituted by Chinese authorities against them;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has sought the forcible repatriation of Uighur Muslims from foreign countries and detained some of those who returned, leading many to seek asylum overseas on the grounds of religious persecution;

Whereas, as part of the ongoing "Three Illegals and One Item" campaign, international media has reported that authorities in Xinjiang continue to confiscate Qurans and prayer rugs as illegal religious items;

Whereas Tibetan Buddhists, including those outside the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR), are prevented from worshipping the Dalai Lama openly, and authorities treat those seen as loyal to the Dalai Lama as a separatist threat;

Whereas authorities in China have evicted at least 11,500 monks and nuns from Tibetan Buddhist institutes at Larung Gar and Yachen Gar since 2016;

Whereas Uighur Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists have reported severe societal discrimination in employment, housing, and business opportunities;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party maintains an extralegal, party-run security apparatus to eliminate the Falun Gong movement and other such organizations;

Whereas, in 2017, it was reported that Chinese authorities sentenced almost 1,000 practitioners to imprisonment for practicing Falun Dafa, and 42 practitioners died in cus-

tody or following release from prison due to injuries sustained while in custody;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China does not recognize Judaism as belonging to 1 of 5 state-sanctioned patriotic religious associations, and therefore practitioners are not permitted to register with the government and legally hold worship services or other religious ceremonies and activities;

Whereas Congress unanimously passed the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292), making it the official policy of the United States "to condemn violations of religious freedom, and to promote, and to assist other governments in the promotion of, the fundamental right to freedom of religion" and to "[stand] for liberty and [stand] with the persecuted, to use and implement appropriate tools in the United States foreign policy apparatus, including diplomatic, political, commercial, charitable, educational, and cultural channels, to promote respect for religious freedom by all governments and peoples";

Whereas, under the International Religious Freedom Act, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has designated China as a "country of particular concern" every year since 1999;

Whereas Congress unanimously passed the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281) in 2016 to amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to enhance the capabilities of the United States to advance religious liberty globally through diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance;

Whereas the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328), passed by Congress in 2016, gives authority to the President to impose targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for committing human rights violations; and

Whereas the United States must show strong international leadership when it comes to the advancement of religious freedoms, liberties, and protections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the persecution of religious minorities in the People's Republic of China and any actions that limit their free expression and practice of faith;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States in promoting religious freedom and tolerance around the world and helping to provide protection and relief to religious minorities facing persecution and violence;

(3) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to uphold the Chinese Constitution in addition to the internationally recognized human right to freedom from religious persecution and to end all forms of violence and discrimination against religious minorities;

(4) strongly condemns the use of reeducation centers, internment camps, and concentration camps as punishment for religious practice and expression;

(5) strongly condemns the restriction and censorship of religious materials like the Bible, the Quran, and any other religious articles or literature sacrosanct to religious practice or expression; and

(6) urges the President to take appropriate actions to promote religious freedom of religious minorities in the People's Republic of China, using the powers provided to the President under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292), the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281), and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328).

SENATE RESOLUTION 668—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 5, 2018, AS "ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY" IN CELEBRATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THAT HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BY PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATION AND FEDERAL ENERGY POLICIES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. REED, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 668

Whereas October has been designated as "National Energy Awareness Month";

Whereas improvements in energy efficiency technologies and practices, along with policies of the United States enacted since the 1970s, have resulted in energy savings of more than 60,000,000,000,000 British thermal units and energy cost avoidance of more than \$800,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas energy efficiency has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and in administrations of both parties for more than 40 years;

Whereas bipartisan legislation enacted since the 1970s to advance Federal energy efficiency policies includes—

(1) the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

(2) the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-12; 101 Stat. 103);

(3) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 et seq.);

(4) the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.);

(5) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001 et seq.); and

(6) the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-11; 129 Stat. 182);

Whereas energy efficiency has long been supported by a diverse coalition of businesses (including manufacturers, utilities, energy service companies, and technology firms), public-interest organizations, environmental and conservation groups, and State and local governments;

Whereas, since 1980, the United States has more than doubled its energy productivity, realizing twice the economic output per unit of energy consumed;

Whereas about 2,250,000 individuals in the United States are currently employed across the energy efficiency sector, as the United States has doubled its energy productivity and business and industry have become more innovative and competitive in global markets;

Whereas the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department of Energy is the principal Federal agency responsible for renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency efforts;

Whereas cutting energy waste saves the consumers of the United States billions of dollars on utility bills annually; and

Whereas energy efficiency policies, financing innovations, and public-private partnerships have contributed to a reduction in energy intensity in Federal facilities and vehicle fleets by over 47 percent since the mid-1970s, which results in direct savings to United States taxpayers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 5, 2018, as "Energy Efficiency Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe Energy Efficiency Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 669—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2018 AS “NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH”

Mr. KING (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 669

Whereas the theme for National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in 2018 is “Join the Voices for Recovery: Invest in Health, Homes, Purpose, and Community”;

Whereas an estimated 72,000 people in the United States suffered a fatal overdose in 2017, with an average number of 197 fatal overdoses per day;

Whereas there are roughly 25,000,000 people in the United States in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction;

Whereas the total cost to the economy of prescription opioid misuse is \$78,500,000,000 annually, and includes the cost of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and involvement of the criminal justice system;

Whereas people with substance use disorder face stigma from health professionals as well as friends and family;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that that stigma is a major barrier for people with substance use disorder to access treatment and engage in recovery; and

Whereas peer-supported communities offer people with substance use disorder better success in recovery, address personal and emotional effects of addiction, and ease reintegration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate joins the voices for recovery to invest in health, homes, purpose, and community in September 2018 and every month—

(1) in recognizing the importance of education and prevention of substance use disorder;

(2) in exploring how integrated care, community, and sense of purpose can lead to effective and sustainable treatment; and

(3) in showing appreciation and gratitude for family members, friends, and recovery allies who support individuals in recovery.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4045. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. WHITEHOUSE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 642, designating the week of September 15 through September 22, 2018, as “National Estuaries Week”.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4045. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. WHITEHOUSE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 642, designating the week of September 15 through September 22, 2018, as “National Estuaries Week”; as follows:

In the eighth whereas clause, strike “estuaries along every coast and the Great Lakes” and insert “some estuaries”.

In the tenth whereas clause, strike “the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)” and insert “section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330)”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have 4 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Broadband: Opportunities and Challenges in Rural America.”

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, October 4, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Combating Money Laundering and other Forms of Illicit Finance: Regulators and Law Enforcement Perspectives on Reform.”

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Earle D. Litzenger, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Eric George Nelson, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Judith Gail Garber, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus, and Jeffrey Ross Gunter, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland, all of the Department of State.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Hannah Smith be given floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jay Nathan, a fellow in Senator KENNEDY’s office, be granted floor privileges for the day.

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

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from

further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 636.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 636) recognizing suicide as a serious public health problem and expressing support for the designation of September as “National Suicide Prevention Month.”

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. 636) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 18, 2018, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 642 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 642) designating the week of September 15 through September 22, 2018, as “National Estuaries Week.”

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the Whitehouse amendment to the preamble be considered and 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 resolution (S. Res. 642) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4045) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the eighth whereas clause, strike “estuaries along every coast and the Great Lakes” and insert “some estuaries”.

In the tenth whereas clause, strike “the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)” and insert “section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330)”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 642

Whereas estuary regions cover only 13 percent of land area in the continental United