

by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the reporting period;

(3) the efforts of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to engage with nongovernmental organizations, institutions of higher education, medical examiners and coroners, and law enforcement agencies—

(A) to identify and map the locations at which migrant deaths occur; and

(B) to count the number of deaths that occur at such locations; and

(4) a detailed description of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Missing Migrant Program, including how the program helps mitigate migrant deaths while maintaining border security.

(b) RESCUE BEACONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the use of rescue beacons along the border between the United States and Mexico, including, for the reporting period—

(1) the number of rescue beacons in each border patrol sector;

(2) the specific location of each rescue beacon;

(3) the frequency with which each rescue beacon was activated by a person in distress;

(4) a description of the nature of the distress that resulted in each rescue beacon activation (if such information is determinable); and

(5) an assessment, in consultation with local stakeholders, including elected officials, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners, of necessary additional rescue beacons and recommendations for locations for deployment to reduce migrant deaths.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the report required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the same committees that describes—

(1) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection collects and records border-crossing death data;

(2) the differences (if any) in U.S. Customs and Border Protection border-crossing death data collection methodology across its sectors;

(3) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection's data and statistical analysis on trends in the numbers, locations, causes, and characteristics of border-crossing deaths compare to other sources of data on these deaths, including border county medical examiners and coroners and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(4) how U.S. Customs and Border Protection measures the effectiveness of its programs to mitigate migrant deaths; and

(5) the extent to which U.S. Customs and Border Protection engages Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, foreign diplomatic and consular posts, and nongovernmental organizations—

(A) to accurately identify deceased individuals;

(B) to resolve cases involving unidentified remains;

(C) to resolve cases involving unidentified persons; and

(D) to share information on missing persons and unidentified remains, specifically with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 716—CALLING FOR CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT, AND SAFE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 716

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to maintain a strong bilateral relationship with a politically stable, democratic, and economically sound Nigeria that can play a leadership role in the region and the continent more broadly;

Whereas Nigeria has presidential elections scheduled for February 16, 2019, and gubernatorial and National Assembly elections scheduled for March 2, 2019;

Whereas credible elections could further consolidate democratic gains achieved in Nigeria over the last two decades since the transition from military to civilian democratic rule;

Whereas a 2017 survey conducted by Afrobarometer found that 72 percent of Nigerians agreed that democratic elections are the best means of choosing their country's leaders, thus indicating that the country's citizens are deeply committed to democracy;

Whereas collaboration between civil society actors and the international community was a key factor that contributed to successful elections in 2015;

Whereas successive elections in Nigeria have featured varying degrees of violence;

Whereas there have been deeply concerning instances of hate speech in Nigeria by members of both the ruling coalition and the opposition inciting supporters to ethnic violence as a means by which to gain electoral advantage, intimidate electoral rivals, or suppress voter turnout;

Whereas, during the Ekiti and Osun gubernatorial elections in July 2018 and September 2018, respectively, there were concerning incidents in which some elements of Nigeria's security agencies displayed partisanship and a lack of objectivity, which risks escalating tensions within the country;

Whereas Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has improved the voting process, notably through the introduction of continuous voter registration, the adoption of simultaneous accreditation and voting, improvements to the secrecy of the ballot, and the advancement of smart card reader technology;

Whereas the statement of the September 2018 Joint National Democratic Institute/International Republican Institute Pre-Election Assessment Mission to Nigeria cited remaining challenges and concerns such as delays in finalizing the legal framework for the elections, delayed release of funds for the elections, security threats in the Middle Belt and North East, instances of vote-buying, and incitement to violence and disinformation; and

Whereas ensuring transparency in electoral preparations and building public confidence in the electoral process is vital for the success of the upcoming elections in Nigeria: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Nigeria in support of peace and democracy;

(2) calls on the Government of Nigeria and all political parties and actors to—

(A) take actions to facilitate elections that are credible, transparent, and peaceful in order to support the will of the people and advance the consolidation of democracy and the stability of the broader region;

(B) condemn in the strongest terms the use of hate speech and incitement to violence, and refrain from any rhetoric or action that seeks to demonize or delegitimize opponents, sow division among Nigerians, or otherwise inflame tensions;

(C) seek to resolve any disputes over results peacefully, including through the legal system as necessary; and

(D) respect the impartiality of the Independent National Electoral Commission;

(3) calls on the Government of Nigeria to—
(A) refrain from deploying security forces in a partisan manner;

(B) ensure that security services maintain the highest level of professionalism and impartiality in facilitating the electoral process, enable accredited observers and journalists to perform their work, and protect the right of citizens to exercise their votes freely;

(C) move expeditiously to finalize the proposed reforms to the legal framework for elections and to ensure the disbursement of requisite funds for the 2019 elections, and

(D) enforce laws against election malfeasance, including vote buying, and ensure equal and robust application through such measures as the establishment of the Electoral Offenses Commission and Tribunal;

(4) urges all Nigerians to fully and peacefully engage in the electoral process, insist on full enfranchisement, reject inflammatory or divisive rhetoric or actions, and seek to resolve any disputes over results through the legal system;

(5) calls upon the Independent National Electoral Commission to sustain confidence and trust in its management of the electoral process by—

(A) taking concrete measures to combat vote buying through voter education campaigns, enforcement of laws against voter inducement, and a nationwide ban on cell phones in the voting cubicle;

(B) releasing specimen ballots well in advance of Election Day so that civil society and other electoral stakeholders can conduct sufficient education to orient voters;

(C) making adequate arrangements to ensure the participation in the election of internally displaced persons (IDPs); and

(D) taking steps to clean the voter roll and ensure timely production and distribution of the Permanent Voter Card to new voters;

(6) encourages political parties in Nigeria to adhere to and enforce existing codes of conduct that commit parties to democratic electoral standards regarding campaign use of resources, engagement of voters, peaceful resolution of disputes, and acceptance of verified and credible results;

(7) condemns any efforts on the part of any politicians or political parties in Nigeria to politicize the security and law enforcement agencies;

(8) encourages civil society organizations in Nigeria to—

(A) promote the peaceful participation of citizens in the electoral process and draw on existing inter-religious and peacebuilding bodies to enhance their efforts;

(B) disseminate information about citizen-based observation findings and analysis to increase public knowledge and understanding about the conduct of the elections; and

(C) continue leading important early warning and response mechanisms to mitigate election-related violence, including through efforts to monitor hate speech and other forms of incitement, and further strengthen democratic processes;

(9) supports efforts by the Department of State, including the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to assist election-related preparation in Nigeria, including through programs focused on conflict mitigation; and

(10) calls on the United States Government and other international partners, especially election-focused nongovernmental organizations, to—

(A) continue to support efforts by the Government of Nigeria to address the remaining electoral preparation challenges and identify gaps in which additional resources or diplomatic engagement could make important contributions to the conduct of the elections; and

(B) support civil society organizations and media organizations working towards transparency and accountability in the use of state resources around the election period.

SENATE RESOLUTION 717—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REBECCA TERESA WEICHHAND

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 717

Whereas Rebecca (“Becky”) Teresa Weichhand was born on February 25, 1982;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand was from Stevensville, Michigan, a town of just over 1,000 people, 1 stop light, and a noon whistle to call the farmers in from the fields for lunch;

Whereas, at the age of 10, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand knew she wanted to be a lawyer;

Whereas, in her first year of college, on a trip to Romania to volunteer with abandoned children in hospitals and orphanages, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand knew she wanted to use the law to support families and ensure that every child had a place to call home;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornerstone University and a law degree from Regent University;

Whereas, during law school, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand was named a Blackstone Legal Fellow and spent a summer in Strasbourg, France, participating in the Regent Human Rights Program;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand served tirelessly as a passionate advocate for children in foster care and the importance that every child have a forever family;

Whereas, as an intern for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in 2008, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand found her home base for her career and platform for service;

Whereas, as Policy Director for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute from 2009 to 2014, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) worked closely with Members of Congress and congressional staff to raise awareness about adoption, foster care, and issues impacting the welfare of children; and

(2) led 3 major international policy projects focused on the welfare of children in Haiti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Guatemala;

Whereas, as Executive Director for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Insti-

tute from 2014 to 2018, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) led with passion, gratitude, and an unwavering voice for children in need of families; and

(2) played an integral role in supporting the Federal adoption tax credit (section 23 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986);

Whereas, while serving at the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) initiated the Foster Youth Internship policy report project, where former foster youth provide detailed recommendations on child welfare policy to Members of Congress;

(2) oversaw the completion of 11 annual policy reports; and

(3) served as an advisor, mentor, friend, and extended family member to 11 classes of foster youth interns;

Whereas, through tireless work at the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, Rebecca Teresa Weichhand—

(1) played a significant role in the Angels in Adoption program, recognizing the contributions of individuals, families, and organizations across the United States to children through adoption and improvements in the foster care system; and

(2) expanded the scope of the Angels in Adoption program to connect Angels to Members of Congress and congressional staff, enhancing—

(A) the reach of the personal stories of the Angels; and

(B) advocacy for children in need of families;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand was a person of strong faith and lived her beliefs through actions of generosity, kindness, and service to others;

Whereas Rebecca Teresa Weichhand passed away on November 27, 2018, after a courageous battle with cancer; and

Whereas the Senate should continue to work in a bipartisan manner to improve outcomes for all at-risk children, with the goal of ensuring that every child has a forever family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the dedication of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand to the children in our world who are in need of a permanent, safe, and loving family and the accomplishments and advocacy of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand on behalf of those children;

(2) honors the memory of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand by expressing the intent of the Senate to continue working in a bipartisan manner to improve outcomes for youth in foster care, with the goal of ensuring that every child has a forever family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to follow the example of Rebecca Teresa Weichhand in expressing kindness, love in action, and compassion for those who need it most.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND SOLDIER HANDLERS IN THE TACTICAL EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOG PROGRAM OF THE ARMY AND ENCOURAGING THE ARMY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, WITH FORMER TACTICAL EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOGS TO PRIORITIZE ADOPTION OF THE DOGS TO FORMER TACTICAL EXPLOSIVE DETECTION DOG HANDLERS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following

concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the 341st Training Squadron, 37th Training Wing at Lackland Air Force Base provides highly trained military working dogs to the Department of Defense and other government agencies;

Whereas in 2010, the operational needs of the Army for military working dogs increased without an increase in resources to train a sufficient number of dogs for the detection of improvised explosive devices at the 341st Training Squadron;

Whereas the Army initiated the tactical explosive detection dog program in August 2010 as a nontraditional military working dog program to train and field improvised explosive device detection dogs for use in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dog program was created to reduce casualties from improvised explosive devices in response to an increase in the use of asymmetric weapons by the enemy;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dogs were a unique subset of military working dogs because the Army selected and trained soldiers from deploying units to serve as temporary handlers for only the duration of deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dogs and their soldier handlers, like other military working dog and handler teams, formed strong bonds while training for combat and performing extremely dangerous improvised explosive device detection missions in service to the United States;

Whereas the tactical explosive detection dog program was a nontraditional military working dog program that terminated in February 2014;

Whereas at the termination of the tactical explosive detection dog program in February 2014, neither United States law nor Department of Defense policy established an adoption order priority, and Department of Defense policy only provided that military working dogs be adopted by former handlers, law enforcement agencies, and other persons capable of humanely caring for the animals;

Whereas an August 2016 report to Congress by the Air Force entitled “Tactical Explosive Detector Dog (TEDD) Adoption Report” concluded that the Army had a limited transition window for the disposition of tactical explosive detection dogs and the lack of a formal comprehensive plan contributed to the disorganized disposition process for the tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas the August 2016 report stated that, in 2014, the Army disposed of 229 tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas 40 tactical explosive detection dogs were adopted by handlers, 47 dogs were adopted by private individuals, 70 dogs were transferred to Army units, 17 dogs were transferred to other government agencies, 46 dogs were transferred to law enforcement agencies, and 9 dogs were deceased;

Whereas the disposition of tactical explosive detection dogs was poorly executed, proper procedures outlined in Department of Defense policy were ignored, and, as a result, the former soldier handlers were not provided the opportunity to adopt their tactical explosive detection dogs;

Whereas the Army should have deliberately planned for the disposition of the tactical explosive detection dogs and provided appropriate time to review and consider adoption applications to mitigate handler and civilian adoption issues;