

Gold Medal to each of Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 2018

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2018, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the child tax credit fully refundable, establish an increased child tax credit for young children, and for other purposes.

S. 2046

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2046, a bill to amend titles 5 and 44, United States Code, to require Federal evaluation activities, improve Federal data management, and for other purposes.

S. 2918

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2918, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 3178

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3178, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a deprivation of civil rights, and for other purposes.

S. 3313

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3313, a bill to improve dental care provided to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3363

At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3363, a bill to support States in their work to end preventable morbidity and mortality in maternity care by using evidence-based quality improvement to protect the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and in the postpartum period and to reduce neonatal and infant mortality, to eliminate racial disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 3584

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3584, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to increase usage of the Federal student loan income-based repayment plan and improve repayment options for borrowers, and for other purposes.

S. 3712

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3612, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination based on source of income or veteran status.

S. 3622

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3622, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3622, *supra*.

S. 3636

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3636, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide matching payments for retirement savings contributions by certain individuals.

S. 3638

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3638, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on estates, gifts, and generation-skipping transfers.

S. 3707

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3707, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a vulnerability disclosure policy for Department of Homeland Security internet websites, and for other purposes.

S. 3729

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3729, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 3768

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3768, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 3771

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3771, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit treatment of student loan payments as elective deferrals for purposes of employer matching contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 3777

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3777, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a tiger team dedicated to addressing the difficulties encountered by the Department of Veterans Affairs in carrying out section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, after the enactment of sections 107 and 501 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017.

S. RES. 109

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 109, a resolution encouraging the Government of Pakistan to release Aasiya Noreen, internationally known as Asia Bibi, and reform its religiously intolerant laws regarding blasphemy.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3779. A bill to establish a voluntary program that strengthens the economy, public health, and environment of the United States by reducing emissions from wood heaters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the Wood Heater Emissions Reduction Act, or WHERA, which I am introducing today with my good friend (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the senior Senator from Alaska.

In 2005, my dear friend, former Senator Voinovich, came to me with a great idea—the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, or DERA. DERA didn't roll back emissions standards for diesel engines, but instead created an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant program to incentivize the use of newer diesel technology. Together, and joined by many of my colleagues that are still serving in the Senate today, we established one of the most successful clean air programs on the books. This program is one that is loved by retailers, manufacturers, States and health groups alike.

As many of my colleagues know, I'm someone that is always trying to find out what works and do more of it. When my staff explained to me the public health challenges that residential wood heaters present to communities, especially rural communities across this country; I knew the challenges were very similar to the ones we faced with diesel engines in 2005. I knew if DERA could be a successful program to retrofit or replace old diesel engines, we could use the program as a framework to replace residential wood heaters.

Like the eleven million old diesel engines that were on the road a decade ago, there are over eleven million homes that use wood as a primary or secondary heat source, and a majority of those homes are located in rural

areas. These residential wood heaters, such as woodstoves, pellet stoves and wood furnaces, often have a long lifespan, some lasting more than fifty years. Due to this long lifespan, industry estimates that six million residential wood heaters in operation today do not meet 1988 EPA Clean Air Act emission standards, much less the current emissions standards implemented in 2015.

Collectively, older residential wood heaters are a major source of air pollution in the United States, especially in rural areas. According to EPA, older, inefficient residential wood heaters can produce a deadly mix of particulate matter (or PM), carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds (which contribute to ozone), black carbon (which contributes to climate change) and air toxics (such as benzene and formaldehyde). This pollution builds up inside and outside the home and contaminates the air we breathe. This pollution can trigger asthma attacks and cause lung damage, cancer, and other significant health problems, including death.

As other industries clean up their air emissions, older, inefficient residential wood heaters stand out among the largest sources of PM pollution. EPA data indicate that nation-wide, inefficient residential wood heaters emit five times more PM pollution than the U.S. petroleum refineries, cement manufacturers, and pulp and paper plants combined. In Delaware alone, older wood heaters are the second largest source of PM pollution in the state, contributing more than highway vehicles, electric utilities and the petroleum industries combined. In Alaska, inefficient woodstoves and wood heaters play a significant role in the classification of Fairbanks as a nonattainment area for fine particulate air pollution.

Fortunately, technology made and sold in the U.S. can dramatically reduce the pollution that is emitted from residential wood heaters and the amount of wood needed to heat a home. Wood heaters being made today that meet EPA's strictest emission standards emit at least 70% less PM and save consumers twenty to forty percent in heating costs from gained efficiencies. If we could encourage all homeowners to use the latest residential wood heater technology, it could have a massive beneficial effect on public health. EPA has determined that replacing just one old, inefficient wood heater is equivalent to taking five dirty diesel engines off the road and the monetized public health benefits from replacing the Nation's old, inefficient residential wood heaters would be up to \$126 billion per year. Based on all that we know, it is clear that replacing older stoves for newer, cleaner burning stoves will result in cleaner air, lower healthcare bills and lower costs for consumers.

Unfortunately, as with old diesel engine owners, most homeowners are not aware of the health problems associ-

ated with their old wood heaters or cannot afford to buy a new wood heater on their own. This means that newer, cleaner heaters are not getting into homes fast enough. The Carper-Murkowski Wood Heater Emissions Reduction Act attempts to solve this problem.

WHERA authorizes a five-year grant program at EPA to incentivize the removal and replacement of old, inefficient residential wood heaters for more efficient, clean-burning heaters. Specifically, WHERA funding targets incentives to: (1) scrap or recycle old wood heaters; and (2) replace them with new, efficient, clean burning and properly installed heaters that at least meet EPA's most stringent wood heater emission standards. Using the successful Diesel Emissions Reduction Act as a model, WHERA allows States, Indian tribes, territories, and local air quality agencies to compete for Federal dollars to fund wood heater change-out programs that work for their communities.

WHERA also supports retailers and manufacturers with the transition to cleaner, more efficient residential wood heaters. WHERA incentivizes homeowners to buy the best available residential wood heater products—when they might not otherwise do so—giving financial incentives for retailers and manufacturers to sell and make the best products. Overall, the residential wood heater industry has been supportive of such wood heater change-out programs at the State and local level.

Because rural areas and tribal areas have a disproportionate need, WHERA also requires that Indian tribal and rural communities are fairly represented in funding allocations and that Indian tribal governments receive at least 4% of total funding under the program.

My friend from Alaska and I feel that we've put together a program that will be as, or more, successful than the DERA program. Replacing outdated wood heaters with new clean-burning heaters that meet EPA emission standards will reduce toxic air pollution and particulate matter, protect public health, and support American jobs. This legislation is a true win-win-win, and one that I commend to my colleagues for their serious consideration.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3784. A bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3784

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Investing in Tomorrow's Workforce Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 2014, the United States spent just 0.1 percent of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product on labor market policies, less than half of what the United States spent on labor market policies 30 years ago.

(2) The number of workers receiving federally supported training has declined in the past 3 decades as advances in technology have simultaneously shifted labor market demand over time.

(3) As much as 47 percent of all jobs in the United States are at risk of being replaced by automation technology, and job losses from automation are more likely to impact workers making less than \$40,000 annually.

(4) Strong Federal investment in expanding training services for workers whose jobs may be lost due to automation could prepare the United States workforce to better adapt to changes in the labor market and enter into skilled positions in technologically-oriented occupations and industries.

(5) A focus on preparing the workforce of the United States for jobs that utilize advanced technologies could grow wages, increase economic productivity, and boost the competitiveness of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AUTOMATION.**—The term "automation" means a device, process, or system that functions without continuous input from an operator, including—

- (A) advanced technologies, such as—
 - (i) data collection, classification processing, and analytics; and
 - (ii) 3-D printing, digital design and simulation, and digital manufacturing;
- (B) robotics, including collaborative robotics, and worker augmentation technology;
- (C) autonomous vehicle technology; or
- (D) autonomous machinery technology.

(2) **DISLOCATED WORKER.**—The term "dislocated worker" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(3) **IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION.**—The term "in-demand industry sector or occupation" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of that Act.

(4) **INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The term "integrated education and training" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of that Act.

(5) **ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.**—The term "eligible partnership" means an industry or sector partnership, as defined in section 3 of that Act, except that—

- (A) for purposes of applying paragraph (26)(A)(iii) of that section, the term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); and
- (B) the partnership shall include representatives of—
 - (i) a State workforce development board or a local workforce development board; and
 - (ii) an economic development organization.

(6) **LOCAL AND STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.**—The terms "local workforce development board" and "State workforce development board" have the meanings given the terms in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Labor.

(8) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—The term "training services" means training services described in section 134(c)(3)(D) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)(D)).

(9) **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.**—The term "workforce development board" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(10) **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.**—The term "workforce development board" has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY ON BARRIERS TO AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RETRAINING WORKERS.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the barriers to providing, and opportunities for improving, training for workers in industries that have, or are likely to have, high rates of job loss due to automation.

(2) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study, the Comptroller General shall study—

(A) considerations impacting, and strategies to improve data collection with respect to, the workforce in industries with high rates of job loss or a high likelihood of automation in the United States, including considerations and data collection strategies concerning—

(i) industries and occupations most likely to be impacted by automation, including—

(I) the geographical location of those industries and occupations;

(II) the annual average wages of those occupations; and

(III) demographic data on the race, gender, and age of workers in those industries and occupations;

(ii) employer-based training practices in those industries and occupations;

(iii) the frequency with which employers provide worker training to address skills needs and react to changes in the labor market; and

(iv) projected job losses;

(B) considerations impacting, and strategies to improve data collection with respect to, the workforce in in-demand industry sectors and occupations in the United States, such as advanced manufacturing, information technology, and health care, including considerations and data collection strategies concerning—

(i) industry sectors and occupations that may emerge or become in-demand industry sectors or occupations as a result of automation, including—

(I) the geographical location of those industry sectors and occupations;

(II) the average annual wages of those occupations; and

(III) demographic data on the race, gender, and age of workers in those occupations;

(ii) the skills and education needed to fill the positions in those industries;

(iii) employer-based training practices in those industry sectors; and

(iv) projected job gains;

(C) barriers to, and opportunities for, re-training workers in industries that have a high likelihood of being impacted by automation;

(D) the impact of the geographical location of workers and their access to transportation on the ability of the workers to access job training and related higher-skilled positions;

(E) the impact of workers' access to other benefits and services, including child care, paid sick leave, paid family and medical leave, or a retirement plan, on the ability of the workers to access job training and related higher-skilled positions; and

(F) how reduced Federal funding for job training programs has impacted the ability of State and local governments, employers, and communities to respond to changes in the labor market, including rapidly evolving technologies.

(b) REPORT.—On completion of the study required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the results of the study.

SEC. 5. GRANTS TO IMPROVE TRAINING FOR WORKERS IMPACTED BY AUTOMATION.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (g), the Secretary of Labor shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships to support

demonstration and pilot projects relating to the training needs of workers who are, or are likely to become, dislocated workers as a result of automation.

(2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible partnership shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the demonstration or pilot project to be completed with the grant funds, which description shall include—

(A) a description of the members of the eligible partnership who will be involved in the demonstration or pilot program and the services each member will provide;

(B) a description of the training services that will be available to individuals participating in the demonstration or pilot project, which may include—

(i) a plan to train dislocated workers from industries likely to be impacted by automation and transition the workers into regionally in-demand industry sectors or occupations; and

(ii) a plan to partner with local businesses to retrain, upskill, and re-deploy workers within an industry as an alternative to layoffs;

(C) a plan to provide workers with technology-based skills training, which may include training to provide skills related to coding, systems engineering, or information technology security, in addition to other skills; and

(D) a description of the goals that the eligible partnership intends to achieve to upskill workers and prepare them for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

(c) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to—

(1) eligible partnerships that are located in an area with a high concentration of—

(A) industries with a higher likelihood of being impacted by automation; or

(B) industries included in in-demand industry sectors, as determined under subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B) of section 3(23) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(23));

(2) eligible partnerships—

(A) with a plan to provide incumbent worker training—

(i) to assist workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment or avert layoffs; or

(ii) that allows a worker working for an employer to acquire new skills that allow the worker to obtain a higher-skilled or higher-paid position with such employer; and

(B) that partner with local employers that intend to backfill the pre-training positions of the incumbent workers by hiring new workers to fill those positions;

(3) eligible partnerships that will provide workers with a transportation stipend, paid sick leave, paid family and medical leave, access to child care services, or other employment benefits; or

(4) eligible partnerships with a plan to develop a shared training curriculum that can be used across local and regional networks of employers and training providers.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds for 1 or more of the following:

(1) Providing training services under the demonstration or pilot project, which may include training services that prepare work-

ers for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

(2) Providing assistance for employers in developing a staff position for an individual who will be responsible for supporting training services provided under the grant.

(3) Purchasing equipment or technology necessary for training services provided under paragraph (1).

(4) Providing job search and other transitional assistance to workers in industries with high rates of job loss.

(5) Providing a training stipend to workers for training services.

(6) Providing integrated education and training.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after an eligible partnership's completion of a demonstration or pilot project supported under this section, the eligible partnership shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report regarding—

(1) the number of workers who received training services through the demonstration or pilot project, disaggregated by type of training service and the age, gender, and race of the workers;

(2) the number of such workers who successfully transitioned into a new position following completion of the training services;

(3) the number of individuals who successfully transitioned into an in-demand industry sector or occupation following completion of the training services;

(4) annual earnings data for individuals who have completed training services through the demonstration or pilot project;

(5) the percentage of individuals described in paragraph (4) who are in education or training activities, or in employment, during the second quarter after exit from the training services;

(6) the percentage of individuals described in paragraph (4) who are in education or training activities, or in employment, during the fourth quarter after exit from the training services; and

(7) any practices used by the partnership that should be considered best practices with respect to training workers in industries that have, or are expected to have, high rates of job loss as a result of automation.

(f) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds in a manner that is consistent with the labor standards and protections described in section 181 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3241) and nondiscrimination provisions described in section 188 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3248).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for the first 5 full fiscal years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF WORKER TRAINING SERVICES.

(a) ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—Section 134(d)(1)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (xi), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xii), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(xiii) training programs for individuals who are, or are likely to become, dislocated workers as a result of automation, including activities that prepare the individuals for occupations in the technology sector.”.

(b) NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANTS.—Section 170 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “advances in automation technology,” before “plant closures,”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any funds reserved under section 132(a)(2)(A) to carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2020.”.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3793. A bill to acknowledge the rights of States with respect to sports wagering and to maintain a distinct Federal interest in the integrity and character of professional and amateur sporting contests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, on May 14, 2018, the Supreme Court in *Murphy v. NCAA*, 138 S. Ct. 1461, 2018, struck down the Federal prohibition of State-authorized sports wagering schemes. I was one of four original authors of that prohibition, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992, Public Law 102-559; 106 Stat. 4227, which found that “sports gambling conducted pursuant to State law threatens the integrity and character of, and public confidence in, professional and amateur sports, instills inappropriate values in the Nation’s youth, misappropriates the goodwill and popularity of professional and amateur sports organizations, and dilutes and tarnishes the service marks of such organizations.”

Today, I joined with Senator CHUCK SCHUMER to introduce the Sports Wagering Market Integrity Act of 2018, a comprehensive legislative response to the *Murphy* decision. This legislation is the product of nearly one year of discussions with stakeholders on all sides of the issue, the gaming industry, professional and amateur sports leagues, consumer advocates, data providers, law enforcement, and many others.

I would urge my soon-to-be former colleagues and other Members of Congress, should they choose to take up this issue, to use the bill I have introduced today as a starting point for their work, but recognize that there is much work to be done, and I would anticipate that any final legislation might look very different from the bill that was introduced today. For example, the degree to which the Department of Justice or other Federal agencies need to be involved in overseeing state sports wagering regimes, the appropriate level of control that sports organizations should have over sports wagering, and the basis for requiring the use of so-called official league data continue to be open questions in my mind. I do not necessarily believe that those and other provisions introduced in the bill today reflect a final decision regarding the appropriate policy. But these provisions do flag many of the difficult issues to be considered as part of the sports wagering discussion. I would urge my colleagues not to be dis-

couraged by the challenges and competing interests, and I look forward to being supportive of future congressional efforts to engage on this issue.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 733—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON, ARMED SEPARATIST GROUPS, AND ALL CITIZENS TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADOPT NONVIOLENT APPROACHES TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 733

Whereas the Government of Cameroon has repeatedly restricted freedoms of expression nationwide by shutting down the internet, harassing and detaining journalists, refusing licenses to independent media, and intensifying political attacks against the independent press;

Whereas, following Cameroon’s October 7, 2018, elections, the African Union Election Observation Mission stated that “the current framework needs to be strengthened in order to safeguard the democratic principles of separation of powers, fairness, and independence and impartiality,” which the Department of State echoed, emphasizing the need to “respect the rule of law, resolve peacefully any disputes through established legal channels, and avoid hate speech”;

Whereas Anglophone Cameroonians have long felt marginalized by official actions and policies of the Government of Cameroon;

Whereas, beginning in late 2016, protests organized by lawyers, teachers, and students were violently repressed by the Government of Cameroon, leading to numerous deaths and imprisonments, including journalists and lawyers;

Whereas, in January 2017, the Government of Cameroon ordered the suspension of Internet services in the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon, the suspension lasting for 93 days and having a major, debilitating effect on the economy, educational institutions, freedom of expression, and social communication of the region’s residents;

Whereas the conflict escalated in late September and early October 2017, when Cameroonian security forces brutally cracked down on unarmed civilians peacefully demonstrating, resulting in at least 20 people dying and leaving over 100 injured;

Whereas, in 2017, armed separatist groups launched a campaign to pressure school officials in the Anglophone region to go on strike as part of a boycott against the Government of Cameroon, and began burning school buildings and threatening education officials with violence if they did not comply with a boycott of schools in the Anglophone regions;

Whereas human rights monitors have documented armed groups killing traditional leaders and targeting civilians who are perceived to be supporting or working with the Government of Cameroon, and reports indicate that armed militants have killed Cameroonian security force personnel;

Whereas numerous credible reports from human rights monitors, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human

Rights, have documented the excessive use of force by Government of Cameroon security forces against Cameroonians living in the Anglophone regions, including the burning of villages, the use of live ammunition against protestors, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, and sexual abuse;

Whereas the Department of State has expressed serious concern over the Government of Cameroon’s use of force to restrict free expression, and the use of violence against individuals protesting the Government’s policies in the Anglophone regions;

Whereas both the Government of Cameroon security forces and armed groups have been documented targeting and brutally killing civilians in the Anglophone regions, including women and children;

Whereas United States citizen Charles Wesco was senselessly killed near the town of Bamenda, Cameroon on October 30, 2018, after being caught in what the Department of State has characterized as “cross fire”;

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated in November 2018 that at least 437,000 people were internally displaced in areas affected by the Anglophone conflict;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that it had registered more than 29,000 Cameroonian refugees from the Anglophone regions in Nigeria as of late October 2018;

Whereas 47 Anglophone activists were forcibly returned from Nigerian custody to Cameroonian authorities, despite many having reportedly submitted asylum claims in Nigeria; and

Whereas 10 of the 47 individuals forcibly returned from Nigeria now face charges punishable by the death penalty, while the other 37 reportedly remain in detention without charge: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges all parties to the conflict in Cameroon, including political opposition groups, to—

(A) agree to an immediate ceasefire;

(B) allow for unfettered humanitarian assistance;

(C) exercise restraint and ensure that protests remain peaceful; and

(D) engage in inclusive dialogue with civil society to get to a political solution that respects the rights and freedoms of the people of Cameroon;

(2) strongly condemns the abuses committed by the Government of Cameroon, security forces, and armed separatist groups in the Anglophone regions, including extrajudicial killings and detentions, the use of force against nonviolent civilians and protestors, and violations of the freedoms of press, expression, and assembly;

(3) affirms that the United States Government continues to hold the Government of Cameroon responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of political views or beliefs or the regions in which they reside;

(4) urges the Government of Cameroon to—

(A) initiate a credible, inclusive, good, and full faith effort to work with religious and community leaders in the Anglophone region to engage in meaningful dialogue and address grievances and seek nonviolent solutions to resolve the conflict, including possibly involving an independent mediator in such negotiations;

(B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonian citizens, including political activists and journalists;

(C) ensure that any security operations are conducted in accordance with international human rights standards, including efforts to ensure security forces only use force under appropriate circumstances;