

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 120—OPPOSING EFFORTS TO DELEGITIMIZE THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE GLOBAL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS MOVEMENT TARGETING ISRAEL

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

S. RES. 120

Whereas the democratic Jewish State of Israel is a key ally and strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas, since Israel's founding in 1948, Congress has repeatedly expressed our Nation's unwavering commitment to the security of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state;

Whereas United States policy has long sought to bring peace to the Middle East and recognized that both the Israeli and Palestinian people should be able to live in safe and sovereign states, free from fear and violence, with mutual recognition;

Whereas support for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians has long-standing bipartisan support in Congress;

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should come through direct negotiations between the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, with the support of countries in the region and around the world;

Whereas it is a hallmark of American democracy for citizens to petition the United States Government in favor of or against United States foreign policy;

Whereas cooperation between Israel and the United States is of great importance, especially in the context of rising anti-Semitism, authoritarianism, and security problems in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa;

Whereas the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel is a campaign that does not favor a two-state solution and that seeks to exclude the State of Israel and the Israeli people from the economic, cultural, and academic life of the rest of the world;

Whereas the BDS Movement targets not only the Government of Israel, but also academic, cultural, and civil society institutions in Israel, as well as individual Israeli citizens of all political persuasions, religions, and ethnicities, and in some cases even Jews of other nationalities who support Israel;

Whereas the BDS Movement does not recognize, and many of its supporters explicitly deny, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination;

Whereas a founder of the BDS Movement has denied the right of the Jewish people in their homeland, saying, "We oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine. No Palestinian, rational Palestinian, not a sell-out Palestinian, will ever accept a Jewish state in Palestine.";

Whereas university-based BDS efforts violate the core goals of the university and global cultural development, which thrive on free and open exchange and debate; and

Whereas the BDS Movement promotes principles of collective guilt, mass punishment, and group isolation, which are destructive of prospects for progress towards peace and a two-state solution; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) opposes the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS Movement) targeting Israel, including efforts to target United States companies that are engaged in commercial activities that are legal under United States law and all efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel;

(2) affirms that the BDS Movement undermines the possibility for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by demanding concessions of one party alone and encouraging the Palestinians to reject negotiations in favor of international pressure;

(3) urges Israelis and Palestinians to return to direct negotiations as the only way to achieve an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

(4) supports the full implementation of the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-296; 128 Stat. 4075) and new efforts to enhance governmentwide, coordinated United States-Israel scientific and technological cooperation in civilian areas, such as with respect to energy, water, agriculture, alternative fuel technology, civilian space technology, and security, in order to counter the effects of actions to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel; and

(5) reaffirms its strong support for a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resulting in two states—a democratic Jewish State of Israel and a viable democratic Palestinian state—living side-by-side in peace, security, and mutual recognition.

SENATE RESOLUTION 121—CONGRATULATING ISRAEL AND EGYPT ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE TREATY

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

S. RES. 121

Whereas Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Menachem Begin, Prime Minister of Israel, met with President Jimmy Carter at Camp David, Maryland from September 5 to September 17, 1978;

Whereas these negotiations resulted in two agreements, known as the "Camp David Accords", which were signed on September 17, 1978;

Whereas those accords provided a framework for peace between Israel and Egypt that stands as a landmark, ending a generation of war and violence;

Whereas the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty was signed on March 26, 1979, at the White House in Washington, D.C., ending 31 years of war between the two nations;

Whereas the peace treaty was duly implemented, resulting in—

(1) the normalization of diplomatic and commercial ties between Egypt and Israel;

(2) the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Sinai Peninsula and the establishment of a demilitarized zone;

(3) the free passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal; and

(4) Egypt becoming the first Arab state to officially recognize Israel;

Whereas President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978;

Whereas President Sadat was assassinated on October 6, 1981, by Khalid Islambouli, a member of Egyptian Islamic Jihad;

Whereas President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, in part for his vital contribution to the Camp David Accords and following peace process;

Whereas Congress, on December 4, 2018, passed legislation awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to President Sadat;

Whereas the Camp David Accords and resulting peace treaty have proven to be an enduring achievement, furthering the interests of peace and stability in a volatile region of the world;

Whereas the United States has proudly supported the participants of this historic agreement over the last four decades of peace; and

Whereas March 26, 2019, marks the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Governments and people of Israel and Egypt for 40 years of peace based on the Camp David Accords;

(2) encourages the Governments of Egypt and Israel to continue to serve as examples of honest statesmanship and peacebuilding;

(3) commends the example set for the world in seeking peaceful and long-lasting resolutions to conflict; and

(4) requests the President to issue a proclamation to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and programs.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CLARIFY THE GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 863.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 863) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the grade and pay of podiatrists of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 863) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 863

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF GRADE AND PAY OF PODIATRISTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) GRADE.—The list in section 7404(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "PODIATRIC SURGEON (DPM)" and inserting "PODIATRIST"; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to "Physician and surgeon grade." the following new item:

"Podiatrist grade."

(b) PAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7431 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking "physician and dentist" each place it appears and inserting "physician, podiatrist, and dentist";

(B) by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”;

(C) by striking “physician or dentist” each place it appears and inserting “physician, podiatrist, or dentist”;

(D) by striking “physicians or dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, or dentists”;

(E) by striking “Physician and Dentist” each place it appears and inserting “Physician, Podiatrist, and Dentist”; and

(F) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “podiatrists and” before “dentists.”

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—Section 7433 of such title is amended by striking “physicians and dentists” each place it appears and inserting “physicians, podiatrists, and dentists”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of subchapter III of chapter 74 of such title is amended by inserting “, PODIATRISTS,” after “PHYSICIANS”.

(4) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 74 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter III and inserting the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—PAY FOR PHYSICIANS, PODIATRISTS, AND DENTISTS”.

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7433 of such title is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “(1) The Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”; and

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (2) as subsection (b); and

(C) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “In prescribing” and inserting “RECOMMENDATIONS AND VIEWS.—In prescribing”; and

(ii) by striking “this paragraph” and inserting “this subsection”.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 26, 2019; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bade nomination under the previous order; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is my great honor and pleasure to be joined on the floor today by my senior Senator from Rhode Island, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator JACK REED. We are here today on the Senate floor to speak about the perils that climate change poses to America’s national security.

I am going to frame my remarks around a fact and a proposition.

The fact, as reported in the 2017 climate science report, is that the oceans of the world are absorbing more than 9 zettajoules of heat energy each year.

The proposition is one that I think most of us agree with—that America is and remains the world’s indispensable Nation, exceptional and exemplary.

Let’s unpack that fact a little bit. More than 9 zettajoules of heat energy go into the ocean every year.

First, what is a zettajoule? A zettajoule is sextillion joules, or 10 to the 21st power joules. That is a lot of zeros. More practically, 9 zettajoules is around a dozen times humankind’s total annual energy consumption.

More kinetically speaking, the added heat in our oceans is equivalent to four Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs exploding in the oceans every second—every second. So every minute, 240 Hiroshima blasts in the ocean—in the time of my remarks, probably 3,000 Hiroshima explosions—with the oceans capturing all of that heat energy.

Let’s go back to the proposition that America is the world’s indispensable and exemplary Nation. Years ago, Daniel Webster probably said it best, describing the work of our Founders as having “set the world an example.” His was not a unique vision of America. From Jonathan Winthrop at the beginning to Ronald Reagan recently, we have called ourselves a city on a hill, set high for the world to witness. From President Kennedy to President Obama, inaugural addresses have noted that the glow of our ideals “light[s] the world.” President Clinton argued that “[p]eople the world over have always been more impressed by the power of our example than the example of our power.”

When Daniel Webster said that our Founding Fathers had set the world an example, he went on to say this: “The last hopes of mankind, therefore, rest with us; and if it should be proclaimed that our example had become an argument against the experiment, the knell”—meaning the death nail—“of popular liberty would be sounded throughout the earth.”

How does the fact of 9 zettajoules and the proposition of America’s role relate to each other? First is the climate chaos mankind will increasingly have to bear. A recent study published by Nature found with 99.999 percent confidence that Earth is warming due to human activity. I could give you any number of risks, such as global sea level rise or increasing wildfires and

droughts or the unprecedented CO₂ concentrations in our atmosphere. All of this affects human health, human agriculture, and human economy, and all of these risks also have national security consequences.

Through the years, America’s national security experts could not have made it much plainer. Fifty-eight former military and national security leaders sent this letter this month to President Trump warning that “[c]limate change is real, it is happening now, it is driven by humans, and it is accelerating.” They went on to say that the administration’s denial of climate science will “erode our national security.” They warned that the effects of climate change are already being “used by our adversaries as a weapon of war,” citing ISIS’s control of water during climate change-exacerbated drought. This letter urges President Trump to “drop the politics, and allow our national security and science agencies to do their jobs.”

They are not alone. The Pentagon’s 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review described climate change as a “global threat multiplier,” warning that “the pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world.”

Former admiral Samuel Locklear, as head of U.S. Pacific Command, warned in 2013 that climate change was the biggest long-term security threat in his area of operation, noting the need for the military to organize for, as he called it, “when the effects of climate change start to impact these massive populations.”

“If it goes bad,” he said, “you could have hundreds of thousands or millions of people displaced and then security will start to crumble pretty quickly.”

A recent survey of nearly 300 Active-Duty and veteran servicemembers found that 77 percent “consider it fairly or very likely that military bases in coastal or island regions will be damaged by flooding or severe storms as a result of climate change.”

In response to a provision championed by Rhode Island Congressman JIM LANGEVIN in the House and by Senator REED in the Senate, the last NDAA bill instructed the Department of Defense to provide a report examining the effects of climate change on the military. Of 79 DOD installations evaluated, 53 currently experience recurrent flooding, 43 are experiencing drought conditions, 36 are prone to wildfires, 6 are seeing desertification, and 1 is dealing with thawing permafrost. That is what is happening now. In 20 years, the DOD predicts, an additional seven installations will experience flooding, five more will see drought conditions, and seven will see wildfire risks.

Of course, all of those risks will get worse. This report failed to list the top 10 most vulnerable installations and ignores the Marine Corps, but it nevertheless warned that “[t]he effects of a