

and poor farmers, and is currently working to implement these accords;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and Colombia have forged a resolute bond through a shared commitment to support peace, human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and security throughout the hemisphere and the world, which has been bolstered by the support of hundreds of thousands of Colombian-Americans and their contributions to American life;

Whereas, in 2000, the Government of Colombia achieved an impressive national consensus to build state capacity, and the United States committed to combat organized crime, drugs, and violence through its foreign assistance package in support of Plan Colombia;

Whereas Plan Colombia and its successor, Peace Colombia, have received steadfast commitments from the administrations of Presidents William Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump, and continuously has been strengthened by broad bipartisan support in the United States Congress;

Whereas, while the Government of Colombia contributed more than 95 percent of funds over the life of Plan Colombia, the political leadership, technical advice, military assistance, and intelligence-sharing role of the United States, along with the \$11,000,000,000 appropriated by the United States Congress through Plan Colombia and Peace Colombia to combat the illicit narcotics trade and transnational organized crime, advance democratic governance, promote economic growth, and defend human rights, played a key role in transforming a nation on the brink to an increasingly peaceful and prosperous democracy, while also safeguarding vital United States interests;

Whereas the Government of Colombia, throughout the administrations of Presidents Andres Pastrana, Alvaro Uribe, Juan Manuel Santos, and Ivan Duque, has made investments and shown remarkable courageous leadership, often at great cost and sacrifice, to consolidate domestic security, socioeconomic development, and the rule of law that far exceed those contributions made by the United States in Colombia;

Whereas, over the past 20 years, levels of crime and violence have subsided sharply in Colombia, with annual per capita homicide rates declining from 62 per 100,000 people in 1999 to a record low of 23 per 100,000 people in 2017;

Whereas the alignment of improved security and sound economic policies has translated into steady growth in Colombia's Gross Domestic Product, which increased from \$86,000,000,000 in 1999 to more than \$309,000,000,000 in 2017, and led to greater Foreign Direct Investment, which grew from \$1,500,000,000 in 1999 to one of the highest in Latin America at an estimated \$14,000,000,000 in 2017;

Whereas the United States and Colombia enjoy a robust economic relationship with United States goods and services trade with Colombia totaling an estimated \$36,100,000,000 in 2016, supporting over 100,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the Government of Colombia has made impressive strides in reducing poverty during the last 15 years, with the poverty rate decreasing from 64 percent in 1999 to 27 percent in 2017, according to the World Bank;

Whereas, since 1999, the Government of Colombia has expanded the presence of the state across all 32 territorial departments, has contributed to the professionalism of the Colombian judiciary, and has improved the capacity of the Colombian Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Police;

Whereas Colombia is one of the United States' most consistent and strategic part-

ners through its support of United States diplomatic objectives at the United Nations and critical efforts made in the fight against transnational organized crime and increased security and rule of law overseas, including in Central America's Northern Triangle, Afghanistan, and several countries in Africa;

Whereas Colombia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NATO in 2017 and is the first NATO partner nation in Latin America;

Whereas these gains are challenged by an escalating crisis in Venezuela, which has seen an influx of more than 1,200,000 Venezuelans into Colombia and the need for continued financial support to implement the peace accord over the next 8 years;

Whereas the internal armed conflict has victimized all Colombians, including women, children, and Afro-descendant and indigenous peoples, and has led to the repeated targeting of leading representatives of civil society, including trade unionists, journalists, human rights defenders, and other community activists who remain at grave risk from guerrilla groups, paramilitary successor organizations, organized criminal groups, and corrupt local officials;

Whereas efforts to achieve lasting peace in Colombia must address the hardships faced by victims of the armed conflict, as exemplified by the Government of Colombia's Law on Victims and Restitution of Land of 2011;

Whereas the prospects for national reconciliation and sustainable peace in Colombia rely on the effective delivery of justice for victims of the conflict and the ability to hold accountable and appropriately punish perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; and

Whereas the work of Special Jurisdiction for Peace—the transitional justice mechanism created with the purpose of ensuring accountability in the context of Colombia's internal armed conflict—is fundamental to the implementation of the accords and the consolidation of peace in the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the unwavering support of the Government and people of the United States for the people of Colombia in their pursuit of peace and stabilization of territories previously in conflict so they can achieve their aspiration to live in a country free of violence and organized crime;

(2) lauds efforts to bring an end to Colombia's enduring internal armed conflict;

(3) commends the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in overseeing the implementation of the 2016 peace accord and the disarmament and reintegration of combatants;

(4) maintains its commitment to the more than 7,000,000 victims of Colombia's armed conflict and urges the government and FARC to hold accountable perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and ensure that they are appropriately punished;

(5) encourages the Government of Colombia to protect vulnerable populations who remain at risk in that country, including defenders of human rights, those facing threats due to crop substitution from the illicit crop market, and Afro-descendant and indigenous communities;

(6) encourages the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive strategy to assist the Government of Colombia in managing the effects of the Venezuela crisis without endangering or detracting from the successful implementation and sustainability of the peace accord and stabilization of territories previously in conflict in Colombia, and to further strengthen the close bilateral partner-

ship shared by the Governments of the United States and Colombia;

(7) reaffirms its commitment to continued partnership between the Governments of the United States and Colombia on issues of mutual interest, including security, counter-narcotics cooperation, combating transnational organized crime, ensuring justice for those who have caused indelible harm to our populations, reintegration of FARC members, economic growth and investment with a focus on disadvantaged communities, and educational and cultural exchanges that strengthen diplomatic relations;

(8) supports the Special Jurisdiction for Peace as an important transitional justice mechanism and encourages the continuation of its work as an important institution in charge of guaranteeing truth, justice, and victim's reparations in the aftermath of the country's internal armed conflict; and

(9) commits to furthering the bilateral relationship between the United States and Colombia by working with leaders in the public and private sectors, as well as civil society from both countries, to ensure that the United States-Colombia relationship remains at the forefront of United States foreign policy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 149—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 8 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2019, AS "NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK"

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 149

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this preamble as "NASSP"), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 8 through April 12, 2019, as "National Assistant Principals Week";

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decisionmaking to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as to supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every

student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas, since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program has recognized outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 8 through April 12, 2019, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 8 through April 12, 2019, as “National Assistant Principals Week”;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES TO COMMEMORATE THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE THROUGH OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AND REMEMBRANCE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 150

Whereas the United States has a proud history of recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide, the killing of an estimated 1,500,000 Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, and providing relief to the survivors of the campaign of genocide against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syrians, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians;

Whereas the Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Sr., United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916, organized and led protests by officials of many countries against what he described as “a campaign of race extermination,” and, on July 16, 1915, was instructed by United States Secretary of State Robert Lansing that the “Department approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian persecution”;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the formation of Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, which raised approximately \$116,000,000 (more than \$2,500,000,000 in 2019 dollars) between 1915 and 1930, and the Senate adopted resolutions condemning the massacres;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide” in 1944 and who was the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20th century;

Whereas, as displayed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Adolf Hitler,

on ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by saying, “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?,” setting the stage for the Holocaust;

Whereas the United States has officially recognized the Armenian Genocide—

(1) through the May 28, 1951, written statement of the United States Government to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and Proclamation No. 4838 issued by President Ronald Reagan on April 22, 1981; and

(2) by House Joint Resolution 148, 94th Congress, agreed to April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247, 98th Congress, agreed to September 10, 1984; and

Whereas the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-441) establishes that the prevention of atrocities is a national interest of the United States and affirms that it is the policy of the United States to pursue a United States Government-wide strategy to identify, prevent, and respond to the risk of atrocities by “strengthening diplomatic response and the effective use of foreign assistance to support appropriate transitional justice measures, including criminal accountability, for past atrocities”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States—

(1) to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance;

(2) to reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise associate the United States Government with denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide; and

(3) to encourage education and public understanding of the facts of the Armenian Genocide, including the role of the United States in humanitarian relief efforts, and the relevance of the Armenian Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY, DOCUMENTS, AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. PRATERSCH

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 151

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Pratersch*, Cr. No. 19-26, pending in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Greta Hasler, an employee of the office of Senator Bernard Sanders;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former Members and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as

will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Greta Hasler, an employee of the Office of Senator Bernard Sanders, and any other current or former employee of the Senator's office from whom relevant evidence may be necessary, are authorized to testify and produce documents in the case of *United States v. Pratersch*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Sanders and any current or former employees of his office in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing the production of testimony, documents, and representation by the Senate Legal Counsel, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for evidence in a criminal action pending in Florida Federal district court. In this action the defendant is charged with threatening to assault and murder Senator SANDERS in voicemails he left with the Senator's Burlington, Vermont office. A trial is scheduled for April 29, 2019.

The prosecution is seeking testimony from one of the Senator's staff assistants who listened to the voicemails at issue. Senator SANDERS would like to cooperate with this request by providing relevant employee testimony and documents from his office.

The enclosed resolution would authorize that staffer, and any other current or former employee of the Senator's office from whom relevant evidence may be necessary, to testify and produce documents in this action, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel of such staffers and Senator SANDERS.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—EXPRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCE WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KOREAN AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 152

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a comprehensive alliance partnership, founded in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea work closely together to promote international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea goes as far back as Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;