

farmers, ranchers, and businesses would all see benefits from the passage of this agreement.

We also want to conclude an agreement with China, which would provide a boost to South Dakota soybean farmers, as well as other South Dakota businesses.

South Dakota farms and businesses depend upon trade, and I am committed to making sure that they have access to the markets they need.

With our thriving economy and low unemployment, finding qualified workers is a challenge for businesses nationwide, but it is particularly a challenge in our State. Unemployment in South Dakota is a remarkably low 2.8 percent—a full percentage point lower than the current measurement for the United States as a whole.

While a low unemployment rate is generally a good thing, it can make it extremely difficult for South Dakota businesses to find the workers they need. That is why I have made expanding the H-2B Visa Program a priority.

Many South Dakota businesses rely on workers who temporarily come to the United States through this program. I was very pleased that the Homeland Security Secretary granted the request of a number of Senators, including myself, to issue additional H-2B visas for 2019. I will continue to encourage the Department of Homeland Security to expedite the release of these visas.

I have also introduced legislation that would expand the number of H-2B visas available for States, including South Dakota, with unemployment rates at or below 3.5 percent.

Another way to ensure businesses have qualified workers is to expand access to career and technical education. Career and technical education programs are key to expanding opportunity for American workers and giving them the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century economy. Last year, Congress passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. This law gives States greater flexibility over career and technical education programs and will help provide better access to training for more than 11 million students and workers.

In addition, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee is currently working on a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which will also address career and technical education.

Republicans are committed to continuing to expand opportunity for America's workers. Here in Washington, we can do a lot to help our economy by getting government out of the way, making sure that small and larger businesses aren't weighed down with heavy taxes or excessive regulations, but ultimately it is American business men and women who are the real drivers of growth.

People like the four generations of Meyers, who have worked at A.H.

Meyer & Sons in Winfred, SD, supporting the South Dakota beekeeping industry or the three generations of the DeGeests, who have worked at DeGeest Steel in Tea. The energy, innovation, and commitment displayed by businesses like these is what powers America.

I am grateful to all the businesses who took the time to talk with me and to show me around over the past few weeks and throughout the year. I will continue to fight for those businesses here in Washington, DC, and I look forward to seeing more of the great work that they will continue to do in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

S. RES. 120

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise to add my name to S. Res. 120. This resolution would make it the sense of the Senate that we in this Chamber oppose the global BDS movement and other efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel.

I have long said that the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement targeting Israel—the BDS movement—is too often used as a vehicle for anti-Semitism.

The resolution would affirm our commitment to a two-state solution in the Middle East, with a future viable, democratic Palestinian State living side by side with the democratic State of Israel in peace, in security, and with mutual recognition.

It would make clear that particularly in this climate of increased anti-Semitism, we do not agree with efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel. I agree with these principles, and it is why I am supporting this resolution.

I would also like to say this: I have made it clear in the past, and my opinion is no different today, that I will not support any legislation that will weaken Americans' First Amendment rights. In this country, we have a fundamental constitutional right to express our opinions and speak out about what we believe in. We have a right to engage in civil disobedience. We have a right to protest. This resolution recognizes all of that. It recognizes the right of people to protest and express their opinions about whatever country or whatever policy they want, but the Senate is also entitled to our opinion, and I support making it our opinion in this body that we oppose the global BDS movement, that we want a two-state solution, and that we want to stand by our alliance with Israel.

I am proud to stand up for these ideals. I am proud to speak out about them. I encourage all New Yorkers and all Americans all over the country to keep speaking out what they believe in too.

I also want to make a broader and critically important point here; that is, today we cannot ignore the anti-Semitism that is on the rise all around us. It is more important now than ever

that we stand together against all forms of anti-Semitism.

Just this past weekend, a hateful, anti-Semitic White supremacist walked into a synagogue in California on the Sabbath, during a celebration, and horrifically opened fire with a weapon of war on people who were praying—praying—on the last day of Passover. Six months before that, we mourned the tragedy at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, when another hateful, anti-Semitic White supremacist walked into a synagogue on the Sabbath and slaughtered people with another weapon of war.

New Yorkers in my home State have had to endure hateful graffiti with swastikas and even outright physical attacks. The FBI has reported a spike in hate crimes all over our country, so has the Anti-Defamation League.

The ADL just released its annual audit of anti-Semitic incidents. These cases of harassment, vandalism, and assault aren't just happening in one place; they are happening in people's businesses, in their schools, in their cemeteries, in their synagogues, and in our public parks. It was their third highest year on record. They are not just happening in our country either.

In Europe, far-right political parties are winning elected office. We are seeing new attempts to deny the Holocaust. It is all unacceptable. Given the rise of anti-Semitism, it is particularly concerning to me that the U.N. is so focused on continuously and singularly vilifying Israel, in contrast to all other nations. That is why I have taken so many steps so often to call out the U.N.'s unfair actions, and it is why I will continue to call on the U.N. to abstain from its unfair treatment of Israel.

The United States is supposed to be a safe haven for Israel and a safe haven for the Jewish people. It is supposed to be a safe haven for people of all religions. You are supposed to be able to worship freely here and to honor the Sabbath here without coming under attack. We must never let that change. We must not allow bigotry and violence to become normal and routine. We must not look the other way when we hear slurs and witness harassment.

Anti-Semitism is real and dangerous, but it is not going to stop on its own. Only our words and our actions can do that. We need to show the world that we are more united than ever to fight against anti-Semitism and against all other forms of racism and bigotry. We need to send a powerful message of solidarity by standing with the Jewish community, praying with them, and helping assure them that in this dark moment, they are not alone.

Let me end with this. I take my faith very seriously. It grounds me. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to attend Bible studies with my colleagues in the Senate and that I can attend a weekly Prayer Breakfast. I believe we are here now, at this moment, for a reason. We are all called to end

hate; we are all called to speak out against the darkness; we are all called to reject anti-Semitism; and we are all called to defend the vulnerable. As a body, we must answer that call.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE D. BENSON

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, today I come to the floor to celebrate the life and career of Bruce Davey Benson or, as so many people know, Bruce D. Benson or, to all of us, just Bruce.

I first met Bruce Benson in 1994. Now, he will not remember this at all, but I remember that I was a young college student at Colorado State University. We were in the parking lot before a game. I had the incredible honor of being one of the chosen ones to take the ram, our mascot, around the football team at the football game before sporting events throughout Colorado State University.

I remember, in 1994, when the campaign for Governor began, Bruce Benson threw his hat in the ring to run against Roy Romer. He was working the crowd at this Colorado State football game, and he came up to those of us who were the ram handlers that were with the mascot, shook our hands, and introduced himself. So from that moment, the first chance I got to meet Bruce Benson in 1994, I knew it was going to be an incredible opportunity and relationship that would lead into years of public service for myself because of how incredible his public service had been to the State of Colorado and the legacy he built.

This July, Bruce will be retiring as the president of the University of Colorado system, which currently oversees four campuses in Colorado: the University of Colorado Denver, CU Colorado Springs, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and the CU Boulder campus—the campus where I earned my law degree.

He has a long history of bettering the lives of Coloradoans. Prior to his appointment as president of the University of Colorado, Bruce established himself in business, philanthropy, politics, and education.

Bruce graduated from the University of Colorado in 1964 with a bachelor of arts in geology and founded the Benson Mineral Group. This is a great story of somebody pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps—taking the education he was able to earn himself and using it to build an incredible life of opportunity for his family and the people of Colorado. What started out as a \$6,000 drilling rig on the back of his truck turned into a hugely successful operation, with a reach extending into banking, real estate, and even cable television.

Bruce prioritized his community and the education of others within it. Over the next 20 years, he would serve on the Colorado Commission of Higher Education, the board of trustees for the Metro State College of Denver, P-20

Education Coordinating Council, and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Higher Education for the 21st Century, all of which he chaired at one point.

He was involved in Colorado politics, serving as the chair for the Colorado Republican Party, helping to identify candidates and being an instrumental part in candidates' campaigns over many decades.

Bruce was appointed to the board of directors for the National Park Foundation and served on the National Endowment for the Humanities—a position that required his confirmation right here in front of the U.S. Senate.

I remember the work he did on education issues—lobbying other Senators, fighting for Colorado dollars, fighting for policies that would help better Children's Hospital in Colorado, and fighting for more funding for children's healthcare. After nearly 45 years in business in Colorado, Bruce was inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame in 2009.

There is a saying about President Franklin Roosevelt, FDR. One time when somebody was asked if they knew President Roosevelt, they said no, but they felt President Roosevelt knew them. I think that saying can be applied to Bruce Benson because even if you didn't know him or don't know him in Colorado, odds are, if you are a Coloradan, he has had a positive impact on your life. He welcomed diversity in the classroom, not only in background but also in thought. He never wanted the university to teach people what to think; he wanted the university to teach them how to think. Bruce learned long ago that he didn't know everything, but if you surround yourself with the best, the rest will follow.

A lot has changed over the last 10 years of his leadership, and so has the university and the State we both call home. We don't know where we would be today without Bruce's fierce work ethic and drive to educate those around him, but we know the future wouldn't be nearly as bright. For all this and so much more, we owe him a great many thanks.

To President Benson, thank you for your service to our great State of Colorado, and thank you for your friendship.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all post cloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ruiz nomination?

Mr. GARDNER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 91 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Baldwin	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Harris	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoehn	Rubio
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Schatz
Cardin	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Carper	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Casey	Jones	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sinema
Coons	King	Smith
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Tester
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	Young

NAYS—8

Gillibrand	Peters	Stabenow
Klobuchar	Sanders	Warren
Markey	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—2

Bennet	Booker
--------	--------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Raul M. Arias-Marxuach, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Arias-Marxuach nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET)