

Whereas the Knights are founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism; and

Whereas, in 2017, the Knights made more than \$185,000,000 in charitable contributions and volunteered more than 75,600,000 service hours; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that disqualifying a nominee to Federal office on the basis of membership in the Knights of Columbus violates clause 3 of article VI of the Constitution of the United States, which establishes that Senators “shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support th[e] Constitution” and “no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States”.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—CALLING FOR CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT, AND SAFE ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 1

Whereas it is in the national 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 incitement to violence 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 re-

maining 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 by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), 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 speech that incites 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 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 monitoring efforts to incite violence or further inflame tensions;

(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.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 2, disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2. Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 109, to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

SA 4. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 2, disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

(a) The provisions of the following measures of the 116th Congress are hereby enacted into law:

(1) H.R. 21, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(2) H.J. Res. 1, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(b) In publishing this Act in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end appendixes setting forth the texts of the measures referred to in subsection (a) of this section and the text of any other measure enacted into law by reference by reason of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2. Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. Van Hollen, and Mr. Warner) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 109, to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

(a) The provisions of the following measures of the 116th Congress are hereby enacted into law:

(1) H.R. 21, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(2) H. J. Res. 1, as passed by the House of Representatives on January 3, 2019.

(b) In publishing this Act in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end appendixes setting forth the texts of the measures referred to in subsection (a) of this section and the text of any other measure enacted into law by reference by reason of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3. Mr. McConnell (for Mr. Johnson (for himself and Mr. Peters)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 2, line 7, striking “6 years” and insert “5 years and 3 months”.

SA 4. Mr. McConnell (for Mr. Johnson (for himself and Mr. Peters)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 251, to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct an Executive Session.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Fighting Elder Fraud: Progress Made, Work to be Done”.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Merkley. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Celine Wolff, have privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: The Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California (Vice Chairman); The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island; The Honorable JACKY ROSEN of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100-458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a six-year term: Thomas Daffron of Maine.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM EXTENSION ACT

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 8, H.R. 251.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 251) to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McConnell. I ask unanimous consent that the Johnson amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, the Johnson title amendment be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security)

On page 2, line 7, striking “6 years” and insert “5 years and 3 months”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 251), as amended, was passed.

The amendment (No. 4) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.”.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 4 p.m. Thursday, January 17; 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 their use later in the day and morning business be closed; further, following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration on the motion to proceed to S. 109; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, there be 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 109.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, 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 Senator Merkley.