

Over the years, the Congress of the United States has ceded a lot of authority to the executive branch of government, and now it is coming home to roost. We can't do much of anything except give speeches like this. We can try to introduce bills that probably will never get to the Senate floor. We can go home and listen to the pain, listen to the suffering, listen to people who so badly want to support the President and what he is doing, as all of us do for these new trade deals, but the fact is, we have ceded so much power to the executive branch of government. It is time for Congress to stand up. It is time for people to speak out to help their farmers, to let the administration know that this cannot go on much longer. We have to stand up and stop this pain as quickly as we can.

We can do it. The President can do it. He has smart people surrounding him. They need to explain to him again that these tariffs are being paid by the American people, not another country. Let's get this negotiated, and let's stop the bleeding for the American farmer as soon as we possibly can.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1469. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit interfering in elections with agents of a foreign government; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Prevent Foreign Interference with Elections Act of 2019. This bill provides enhanced criminal penalties and additional safeguards to prevent foreign interference in our elections.

To be clear, there are already laws on the books to prosecute those who interfere in U.S. elections. Indeed, Special Counsel Mueller charged Russian intelligence officers who hacked into U.S. computers and stole documents, for the purpose of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections.

Special Counsel Mueller also charged the Russian Internet Research Agency and several of its employees for their role in the social media campaign that was designed to manipulate American voters.

This bill, however, makes election interference a separate criminal offense. It makes clear that those who conspire with foreign actors to interfere in U.S. elections will be punished appropriately for striking at the bedrock of our democracy.

This bill does five main things.

First, it explicitly makes it a crime to conspire with foreign nationals to interfere in U.S. elections.

Interference can be accomplished through breaking a federal criminal law, such as committing fraud, or by hacking into someone's computer, or by violating federal, state, or local election laws.

As I mentioned, this bill simply leaves no doubt that working with a foreign actor to commit these offenses with the goal of interfering in a U.S. election is a crime.

And it requires that those who break this law will be sentenced separately, and in addition to any other laws that were broken.

Second, it makes it so that people convicted of interfering in our elections would be inadmissible into the United States.

There is, however, an important exception. Those who cooperate with law enforcement to help catch those responsible for interference would be eligible for an S visa.

Third, it creates a civil action, allowing the Attorney General to immediately address foreign interference once U.S. law enforcement learns of it.

This is important because foreign interference can then be stopped as soon as it is discovered.

Fourth, it prohibits foreign-financed elections ads, including foreign-financed issue ads and foreign-financed digital ads.

These expansions will help protect the integrity of our electoral process.

Fifth and finally, it prohibits providing "substantial assistance" to foreign nationals trying to interfere in our elections.

It is important that we also hold ourselves accountable by not providing aid to those wishing to do us harm.

To be clear, there was foreign interference in the 2016 Presidential election.

The Intelligence Community unanimously concluded that the Russian government interfered by "blend[ing] covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or 'trolls.'" After a nearly two-year investigation, Special Counsel Mueller confirmed these core conclusions.

Along the way, his office indicted 12 Russian intelligence officers in connection with Russian hacking operations and three companies, including the Internet Research Agency and 13 of its employees for their role in the social media campaign to influence American voters.

Unless we do something, this interference will happen again. And to stop it, we need to not only make clear that interference will result in criminal punishment, we must also update our election laws so that they can combat these new cyber-attacks. This bill does both.

I am introducing this bill today with strong Democratic support, and I would particularly like to thank Senator BLUMENTHAL for his leadership on this issue.

It is my sincere hope, however, that my Republican colleagues will join us in this important effort as well.

The issue I speak about today is one that goes to the core of our democracy.

It is a bi-partisan issue that I hope both Democrats and Republicans can join in addressing.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 205—EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE SENATE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO OPERATE OR SUPPORT DIAPER BANKS AND DIAPER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 205

Whereas the lack of a sufficient clean diaper supply can adversely affect the physical, mental, and economic well-being of infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas diapers are a material basic need of every infant and toddler;

Whereas an infant requires up to 12 diapers per day, at a cost of \$70 to \$80 per month;

Whereas low-wage families and families living in poverty often rely on community donations for diapers;

Whereas addressing diaper need in local communities can improve health conditions and economic opportunities for infants, toddlers, and their families;

Whereas many families delay changing a diaper to extend their diaper supply, thereby increasing the incidence of diaper dermatitis, urinary tract infections, and other health ailments;

Whereas families displaced by natural disasters experience an acute need for diapers, particularly as diapers are not consistently provided through relief efforts;

Whereas diapers provided by diaper banks and volunteer distribution projects amplify the impact of resources deployed by larger disaster relief organizations;

Whereas, in September 2011, the National Diaper Bank Network was created to support children and their families and to raise awareness of diaper need among the general public;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 diapers were distributed along the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma by nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network;

Whereas the National Diaper Bank Network coordinates ongoing diaper supply efforts in the aftermath of natural disasters such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the California wildfires, and the Midwestern floods; and

Whereas, during 2017, the more than 300 nonprofit diaper banks and diaper pantries that are members of the National Diaper Bank Network distributed more than 64,000,000 donated diapers, helping ensure that each month more than 225,000 children in need received diapers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities;

(2) supports the important efforts made by diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in response to natural disasters; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to address diaper need by donating generously to diaper banks, diaper pantries, diaper drives, and organizations that distribute diapers to families in need.

SENATE RESOLUTION 206—MARKING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW ON CONTEMPORARY BATTLEFIELDS, AND ENCOURAGING UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN ENSURING GREATER RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN CURRENT CONFLICTS, PARTICULARLY WITH ITS SECURITY PARTNERS

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

S. RES. 206

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, along with their Additional Protocols, are the foundation of international humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the law of armed conflict, the body of law that seeks to ensure wars have limits;

Whereas 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and serves as a reminder of the importance and continued relevance of IHL in a world with proliferating and protracted armed conflicts, unprecedented displacement, and immense suffering;

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 reflect more than just law; they reflect the universal recognition that wars must be fought humanely;

Whereas, at its core, IHL sets out a fundamental obligation that people, even in times of armed conflict, must be treated with humanity;

Whereas IHL requires all parties to armed conflicts, whether states or non-state armed groups, to comply with rules and basic principles that seek to preserve the lives and dignity of human beings, such as that: civilians and civilian objects must not be targeted; hospitals and medical personnel must be respected and must not be attacked; no one shall be subjected to torture or other forms of ill treatment; and rape and other forms of sexual violence are prohibited;

Whereas today's conflicts are marred by significant violations of IHL, the effects of which are apparent across armed conflicts, from restrictions on humanitarian access contributing to the world's worst cholera outbreak in Yemen, to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, in addition to attacks against civilians, and attacks on medical personnel and health facilities; to the Islamic State's use of civilians as human shields; to widespread killings, sexual violence, and forced displacement in countries such as Nigeria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and elsewhere;

Whereas people detained in armed conflict, including prisoners of war (POWs), often suffer torture, abuse, and inhumane living conditions, such as insufficient food, water, and health services;

Whereas, while many states have taken significant steps to ensure humane treat-

ment of detainees, and adequate living conditions, many others still fail to comply with basic standards of treatment and care as required by IHL;

Whereas, as mandated by the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plays a vital role in visiting detainees in situations of armed conflict with a view to preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, preventing disappearances, improving overall detention conditions, maintaining family contacts, and promoting judicial guarantees;

Whereas the United States has an expressed preference for pursuing its military objectives “by, with, and through” its security partners in some parts of the world, but state militaries and non-state armed groups with which the United States partners may lack sufficient commitment to IHL principles or capabilities to conduct their operations in a manner that effectively minimizes civilian harm;

Whereas it is essential, as a critical component of its policies and diplomatic relations, that the United States affirms its commitment to not only respect the rules of IHL but to ensure respect by its partners and adopt policies conditioning its security assistance in this regard;

Whereas, as the nature of warfare changes, IHL remains relevant to ensure wars are fought with limits;

Whereas IHL was created to respond to new developments and domains in warfare, such as cyber operations, and new challenges do not undermine the importance or relevance of IHL, but rather call for affirming, applying, and ensuring compliance with IHL;

Whereas sweeping counterterrorism measures and country-based sanctions have sometimes impeded neutral, impartial lifesaving humanitarian action in countries like Somalia and Syria;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of implementing and upholding IHL, not just as a matter of legal obligation but also because respect for human life and protecting the vulnerable reflects the best traditions of a professional military force;

Whereas United States senior military leadership often publicly recognizes that minimizing civilian harm is central to mission effectiveness and therefore serves the United States national security interests; and

Whereas, as long as armed conflict remains a reality, there must also be a limit to suffering, and IHL, as outlined 70 years ago in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, sets out these limits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) upon the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) remains critical to upholding humanity in war, protecting people affected by war, and preventing suffering;

(2) the Executive branch and Congress must ensure that the United States Government, as the largest donor of lifesaving humanitarian aid—

(A) does not employ counterterrorism measures or other sanctions that unduly impede lifesaving humanitarian action and thereby jeopardize vulnerable people's access to resources critical to their survival; and

(B) upholds the longstanding United States commitment to supporting principled humanitarian action; and

(3) the United States must continue to be a global leader in promoting and ensuring compliance with IHL by upholding high standards of conduct within the United States Armed Forces, taking stronger measures to ensure compliance with IHL by United States security partners, holding per-

petrators of violations of IHL accountable, and seeking compliance with IHL by all parties to armed conflict.

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—CONGRATULATING THE SENATE GLASS CAUCUS STAFF ASSOCIATION FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER SENATE STAFF ON THE 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, on April 23, 2004, several Senate staffers joined to form a first-of-its-kind staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (referred to in this preamble as “LGBT”) Senate staff and the allies of LGBT Senate staff;

Whereas that staff association, known as the Gay, Lesbian, Allies Senate Staff Caucus, and commonly referred to as the “Senate GLASS Caucus”, continues to serve the Senate community by raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBT community;

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus continues to promote the welfare and dignity of LGBT Senate employees;

Whereas, for the first time in the 15-year history of the Senate Glass Caucus, the Senate GLASS Caucus celebrates the fact that 2 openly LGBT Members are serving simultaneously in the Senate; and

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus strives to provide a safe environment for social interaction and professional development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the association;

(2) commends the late Senator Frank Ral-

leigh Lautenberg of New Jersey for—

(A) the critical role that Senator Lautenberg played in the formation of the Senate GLASS Caucus; and

(B) the steadfast support of Senator Lautenberg for equality; and

(3) recognizes the members of the inaugural Senate GLASS Caucus Steering Com-

mittee for the vision and hard work of those

members in establishing the Senate GLASS

Caucus, including—

(A) Lynden Armstrong;

(B) Brett Bearce;

(C) Josh Brekenfeld;

(D) John Fossum;

(E) Jason Knapp;

(F) Jeffrey Levensaler;

(G) Kelsey Phipps; and

(H) Mat Young.

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY AS “AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: