

inexplicably objected to its adoption. I'm still waiting for an explanation as to why.

I'm proud that this resolution is co-sponsored by Senators SHELDON WHITEHOUSE (D-R.I.), PATTY MURRAY (D-Wash.), RICHARD DURBIN (D-Ill.), MAZIE HIRANO (D-Hawaii), KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (D-N.Y.), ROBERT MENENDEZ (D-N.J.), KAMALA HARRIS (D-Calif.), SHERROD BROWN (D-Ohio), RICHARD BLUMENTHAL (D-Conn.), TOM CARPER (D-Del.), JACK REED (D-R.I.), CHRIS VAN HOLLEN (D-Md.), BERNIE SANDERS (I-Vt.), EDWARD MARKEY (D-Mass.), DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-Calif.), TAMMY DUCKWORTH (D-Ill.), MARIA CANTWELL (D-Wash.), TAMMY BALDWIN (D-Wis.), CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO (D-Nev.), JON TESTER (D-Mont.), JEANNE SHAHEEN (D-N.H.), AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-Minn.), and MAGGIE HASSAN (D-N.H.).

Equal pay for equal work should not be a political football. All women, including the women of the U.S. National Team, deserve to be paid for the job they do, not based on their gender. Equal pay should not still be up for debate in 2019.

When time expired on the game clock during the World Cup championship game, chants of "Equal Pay!" echoed throughout the stadium in France. I am proud to join in that chorus today.

SENATE RESOLUTION 292—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON AND ARMED SEPARATIST GROUPS TO RESPECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL CAMEROONIAN CITIZENS, TO END ALL VIOLENCE, AND TO PURSUE AN INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT IN THE NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST REGIONS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 292

Whereas Paul Biya has held office as Cameroon's President since 1982, and won reelection to a seventh term in October 2018;

Whereas Cameroon receives United States foreign aid and participates in the Department of State-led Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership (TSCTP) and United States-supported efforts to counter Boko Haram;

Whereas the Government of Cameroon has increasingly cracked down on political expression, including by imprisoning opposition leaders and supporters, banning opposition and civil society conferences, reinforcing troop deployments to deter and disrupt protests, and restricting access to Facebook and other social media platforms;

Whereas the Government of Cameroon has repeatedly restricted freedoms of expression and the media nationwide by shutting down the internet, harassing and detaining journalists, refusing licenses to independent media, and intensifying political attacks against the independent press;

Whereas Boko Haram and an Islamic State-affiliated splinter group have destabi-

lized northern Cameroon since 2014, marked recently by a June 2019 attack on security forces in Far North Cameroon that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians;

Whereas the Boko Haram insurgency in Cameroon's Far North region has created an estimated 263,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), causing an escalating humanitarian crisis in difficult to access areas;

Whereas tensions between predominantly Christian farmers and predominantly Muslim Fulani herders have contributed to religious and communal tensions throughout West and Central Africa in recent years, including in the Northwest region of Cameroon;

Whereas members of the Government of Cameroon's Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), which receives United States counter-terrorism training and support, have been accused of torture and extrajudicial killings and may be in contravention of congressionally mandated "Leahy human rights vetting" requirements;

Whereas the 2018 Department of State Human Rights Report documented torture and abuse by Cameroonian security forces, "prolonged arbitrary detentions including of suspected Anglophone separatists by security forces," and violations of freedoms of expression and assembly;

Whereas, following Cameroon's October 7, 2018, elections, the African Union Election Observation Mission stated that "the current [legal] framework needs to be strengthened in order to safeguard the democratic principles of separation of powers, fairness, and independence and impartiality," which the Department of State echoed, emphasizing that electoral irregularities "created an impression that the election was not credible or genuinely free and fair";

Whereas Anglophone Cameroonians have long felt marginalized by official actions and policies of the Government of Cameroon;

Whereas, while the Government of France has condemned attacks by armed separatists, it has a meaningful role to play in pushing the Government of Cameroon to lift restrictions on freedoms of expression and the media, end arbitrary detention, and engage in inclusive dialogue with Anglophone leaders;

Whereas, beginning in late 2016, protests organized by lawyers, teachers, and students were violently repressed by the Government of Cameroon, leading to numerous deaths and imprisonments, including of journalists and lawyers;

Whereas, in January 2017, the Government of Cameroon ordered the suspension of internet services in the northwest and southwest regions of Cameroon, the suspension lasting for 93 days and having a major, debilitating effect on the economy, educational institutions, freedom of expression, and social communication of the region's residents;

Whereas the conflict escalated in late September and early October 2017, when Cameroonian security forces brutally cracked down on unarmed civilians peacefully demonstrating, resulting in at least 20 people dying and leaving over 100 injured;

Whereas, in 2017, armed separatist groups launched a campaign to pressure school officials in the Anglophone region to go on strike as part of a boycott against the Government of Cameroon, and began burning school buildings and threatening education officials with violence if they did not comply;

Whereas human rights monitors have documented armed groups killing traditional leaders and targeting civilians who are perceived to be supporting or working with the Government of Cameroon, and armed militants have killed Cameroonian security force personnel;

Whereas numerous credible reports from human rights monitors, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, have documented the excessive use of force by Government of Cameroon security forces against Cameroonian living in the Anglophone regions, including the burning of villages, the use of live ammunition against protesters, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, and sexual abuse;

Whereas the Department of State has expressed serious concern over the Government of Cameroon's use of force to restrict free expression and the use of violence against individuals protesting the government's policies in the Anglophone regions;

Whereas both the Government of Cameroon security forces and armed groups have been documented targeting and brutally killing civilians in the Anglophone regions, including women and children;

Whereas in February 2019, the Department of State announced it would withhold some security assistance to Cameroon, citing credible allegations that the Cameroonian military carried out human rights violations;

Whereas United States citizen Charles Wesco was senselessly killed near the town of Bamenda, Cameroon, on October 30, 2018, after being caught in what the Department of State has characterized as "cross fire";

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs stated in March 2019 that at least 530,000 were internally displaced in areas affected by the Anglophone conflict;

Whereas the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has estimated that \$298,900,000 is required to provide humanitarian assistance throughout Cameroon, and only 21 percent of the appeal has been funded as of July 2019;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that it had registered roughly 36,000 Cameroonian refugees from the Anglophone regions in Nigeria as of April 2019;

Whereas some Cameroonian diaspora organizations in the United States and Cameroonian-based civil society organizations are working to address the needs of Cameroonian internally displaced persons on the northwest and southwest regions of the country and refugees in Nigeria;

Whereas 47 Anglophone activists were forcibly returned from Nigerian custody to Cameroonian authorities in January 2018, despite many having reportedly submitted asylum claims in Nigeria; and

Whereas 10 of the 47 individuals forcibly returned from Nigeria now face charges before a military court that would be punishable by the death penalty, while the other 37 reportedly remain in detention without charge; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges all parties to the Anglophone conflict in Cameroon, including political opposition groups, to—

(A) agree to an immediate ceasefire;

(B) guarantee unfettered humanitarian assistance;

(C) exercise restraint and ensure that protests remain peaceful; and

(D) engage in inclusive dialogue with civil society to get to a political solution that respects the rights and freedoms of the people of Cameroon;

(2) strongly condemns the abuses committed by Boko Haram, state security forces, and armed groups in the Anglophone regions, including extrajudicial killings and detentions, the use of force against nonviolent civilians and protesters, and violations of the freedoms of press, expression, religion, and assembly;

(3) affirms that the United States Government continues to hold the Government of

Cameroon responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs, political views, or the regions in which they reside;

(4) urges the Government of Cameroon to—

(A) initiate a credible, inclusive, good, and full-faith effort to work with religious, cultural, and community leaders in the Anglophone region and the Cameroonian diaspora to engage in meaningful dialogue and address grievances and seek nonviolent solutions to resolve the conflict, including possibly involving an independent mediator in such negotiations;

(B) respect the fundamental rights of all Cameroonian citizens, including political activists, faith leaders, and journalists;

(C) ensure that any security operations are conducted in accordance with international human rights standards, including efforts to ensure security forces only use force under appropriate circumstances;

(D) investigate all allegations of human rights abuses, including religious freedom violations, committed in the Anglophone regions and take the necessary measures to prevent arbitrary detention, torture, enforced disappearances, deaths in custody, and inhumane prison conditions;

(E) promote the rule of law through more transparent accountability mechanisms;

(F) improve election processes and reform electoral institutions;

(G) promptly charge or release all those detained in the context of the Anglophone crisis, including all Anglophone activists arrested in Nigeria, and ensure that any future detainees are treated with due process, in accordance with Cameroon's penal code and international human rights norms;

(H) ensure that detainees are treated fairly and humanely, with proper judicial proceedings, including a registry of those detained by the Cameroonian security forces, and with full access to legal resources;

(I) release human rights defenders, civil society activists, political prisoners, journalists, trade unionists, teachers, faith leaders and any other citizens who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained without trial or charge; and

(J) work with United States law enforcement to thoroughly investigate and prosecute Charles Wesco's murder; and

(5) urges the armed groups in Anglophone areas to—

(A) engage with government officials to peacefully express grievances and credibly engage in nonviolent efforts to resolve the conflict;

(B) immediately stop committing human rights abuses, including killings of civilians, torture, kidnapping, and extortion;

(C) end the school boycott and immediately cease attacks on schools, teachers, and education officials, and allow for the safe return of all students to class; and

(D) immediately release all civilians illegally detained or kidnapped.

SENATE RESOLUTION 293—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 25, 2019, AS “NATIONAL LOBSTER DAY”

Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 293

Whereas lobstering has served as an economic engine and family tradition in the United States for centuries;

Whereas thousands of families in the United States make their livelihoods from catching, processing, or serving lobsters;

Whereas the lobster industry employs people of all ages, and many harvesters begin fishing as children and stay in the industry for their entire working lives;

Whereas historical lore notes that lobster likely joined turkey on the table at the very first Thanksgiving feast in 1621, and it continues to be a mainstay during many other holiday traditions;

Whereas responsible resource management practices beginning in the 1600s have created one of the most sustainable fisheries in the world;

Whereas, throughout history, United States presidents have served lobster at their inaugural celebrations and state dinners with international leaders;

Whereas lobster is an excellent, versatile source of lean protein that is low in saturated fat and high in vitamin B12;

Whereas lobster is consistently being incorporated into trending recipes such as deviled eggs and burgers;

Whereas the peak of the lobstering season in the United States occurs in the late summer;

Whereas the growing reputation of the American lobster as a unique, high-quality, and healthy food has increased its consumption and driven demand internationally;

Whereas the Unicode Consortium added a lobster to its emoji set in 2018 in recognition of the popularity of the species around the world;

Whereas countless people in the United States enjoy lobster rolls to celebrate summer, from beaches to backyards and fine dining restaurants to lobster shacks;

Whereas lobsters are inspiring children's books and characters in television shows in the United States;

Whereas lobsters have inspired artists in the United States and throughout the world for hundreds of years;

Whereas lobsters have been, and continue to be, used as mascots for sports teams; and

Whereas lobster inspires festivals from Maine to California, where people come together to celebrate their love for the crustacean: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 25, 2019, as “National Lobster Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 931. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 932. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 931. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . REQUIREMENT TO ENACT OFFSETTING SAVINGS.

(a) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER BUDGET DEAL WAS OFFSET.—On January 1, 2020, the Director shall determine the difference obtained by subtracting—

(1) the projected amount of the reduction in outlays for direct spending for the period of the total of fiscal years 2020 through 2029 under laws enacted during the period—

(A) beginning on the day after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) ending on December 31, 2019; from

(2) \$320,000,000,000.

(b) SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the difference determined under subsection (a) is a positive number, the Director shall calculate and the President shall order a sequestration for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2029 in accordance with this subsection.

(2) CALCULATION.—The Director shall calculate the amount of the reduction in direct spending required under this subsection for a fiscal year by dividing the difference determined under subsection (a) by 10.

(3) ORDERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal years 2020 through 2029, on the date specified in subparagraph (B), the Director shall calculate and the President shall order a sequestration, effective upon issuance, that reduces all nonexempt direct spending by the uniform percentage necessary to reduce the total amount of nonexempt direct spending for such fiscal year by the amount calculated under paragraph (2).

(B) DATE.—The date specified in this subparagraph is—

(i) with respect to fiscal year 2020, as soon as is practicable after December 31, 2019; and

(ii) with respect to each of fiscal years 2021 through 2029, the date on which the Director issues the sequestration preview report for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(c)).

(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—When implementing a sequestration under this subsection, the Director shall follow the procedures specified in section 6 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 935), the exemptions specified in section 255 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 905), and the special rules specified in section 256 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 906).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms “direct spending” and “sequestration” have the meanings given such terms in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c));

(2) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; and

(3) the term “outlays” has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622).

SA 932. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3877, to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, to establish a congressional budget for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, to temporarily suspend the debt limit, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: