

S. 1846

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1846, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for engagements with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance to eligible entities to provide and coordinate the provision of suicide prevention services for veterans at risk of suicide and veteran families through the award of grants to such entities, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the integration of baseball.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to improve access to affordable insulin.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to require carbon monoxide alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2242

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2242, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to clarify the obligation to report acts of foreign election influence and require implementation of compliance and reporting systems by Presidential campaigns to detect and report such acts.

S. 2459

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2459, a bill to amend title 9, United States Code, to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of certain disputes arising from claims of servicemembers and veterans.

S. RES. 120

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 120, a resolution opposing efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement targeting Israel.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution designating September 2019 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 308—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OR TO RELEASE UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL WHELAN

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

S. RES. 308

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a United States Marine Corps veteran;

Whereas Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow for the wedding of a personal friend on December 22, 2018;

Whereas Russia's Federal Security Service arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow on December 28, 2018, and charged him with espionage;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and continues to be held there more than eight months after his arrest;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has not provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing;

Whereas a Moscow court has extended Paul Whelan's pre-trial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas officials from the United States Embassy in Moscow have routinely had their topics of discussion with Paul Whelan severely limited by the Federal Security Service;

Whereas even Paul Whelan's Federal Security Service-appointed lawyer, Vladimir Zhirebenkov, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas the United States Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of

Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.";

Whereas Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to present credible evidence on the allegations against Paul Whelan or immediately release him from detention;

(2) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains in detention;

(3) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to ensure Paul Whelan is afforded due process and universally recognized human rights;

(4) encourages the President and the Secretary of State to continue to press the Government of the Russian Federation at every opportunity and urge the Government of the Russian Federation to guarantee a fair and transparent judicial process without undue delay in accordance with its international legal obligation; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to an end.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 1941, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior including in any leasing program certain planning areas, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

I, Senator Bill Cassidy, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 205, a bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently extend the moratorium on leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes, dated September 11, 2019.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. 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, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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, September 11, 2019, at 10

a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Aurelia Skipwith to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Katherine Lemos to be Member and Chairperson of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Steven J. Menashi to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Karen S. Marston to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Richard E. Myers II to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Anuraag Singhal to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 99, S. 178.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 178) to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to direct United States resources to address gross violations of universally recognized human rights, including the mass internment of over 1,000,000 Uyghurs and other predominately Muslim ethnic minorities in China and the intimidation and threats faced by United States citizens and legal permanent residents.

SEC. 3. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Bank-

ing, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China has a long history of repressing approximately 13,000,000 Turkic, moderate Sunni Muslims, particularly Uyghurs, in the nominally autonomous Xinjiang region. These actions are in contravention of international human rights standards, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(2) In recent decades, central and regional Chinese government policies have systematically discriminated against Uyghurs, ethnic Kazakhs, and other Muslims in Xinjiang by denying them a range of civil and political rights, including the freedoms of expression, religion, movement, and a fair trial, among others.

(3) Increased unrest in the Xinjiang region as a result of the central government's severe repression is used in Orwellian fashion by the Government of the People's Republic of China as evidence of “terrorism” and “separatism” and as an excuse for further disproportionate response.

(4) In 2014, Chinese authorities launched their latest “Strike Hard against Violent Extremism” campaign, in which the pretext of wide-scale, internationally linked threats of terrorism were used to justify pervasive restrictions on, and gross human rights violations against, the ethnic minority communities of Xinjiang.

(5) Those policies included—

(A) pervasive, high-tech surveillance across the region, including the arbitrary collection of biometric data, such as DNA samples from children, without their knowledge or consent;

(B) the use of QR codes outside homes to gather information on how frequently individuals pray;

(C) facial and voice recognition software and “predictive policing” databases; and

(D) severe restrictions on the freedom of movement across the region.

(6) Chinese security forces have never been held accountable for credible reports of mass shootings in Alaqaqha (2014), Hanerik (2013), and Sirigbuya (2013), as well as the extrajudicial killings of Abdulbasit Ablimit (2013) and Rozi Osman (2014).

(7)(A) The August 2016 transfer of former Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Chen Quanguo to become the Xinjiang Party Secretary prompted an acceleration in the crackdown across the region.

(B) Local officials in Xinjiang have used chilling political rhetoric to describe the purpose of government policy, including “eradicating tumors” and “spray[ing] chemicals” on crops to kill the “weeds”.

(C) Uyghurs are forced to celebrate Chinese cultural traditions, such as Chinese New Year, and unique Uyghur culture is facing eradication due to state control over Uyghur cultural heritage, such as muqam (a musical tradition) and meshrep (traditional cultural gatherings), and due to elimination of the Uyghur language as a medium of instruction in Xinjiang schools and universities.

(8) In 2017, credible reports found that family members of Uyghurs living outside of China had gone missing inside China, that Chinese authorities were pressuring those outside the country to return, and that individuals were being arbitrarily detained in large numbers.

(9) There is ample credible evidence provided by scholars, human rights organizations, jour-

nalists, and think tanks substantiating the establishment by Chinese authorities of “political reeducation” camps.

(10) Independent organizations conducted interviews, including testimonies from Kayrat Samarkan, Omir Bekali, and Mihrigul Tursun, along with others who had been detained in such facilities, who described forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, food deprivation, and solitary confinement, as well as uncertainty as to the length of detention, humiliation, and denial of religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms, and confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty. Poor conditions and lack of medical treatment at such facilities appear to have contributed to the deaths of some detainees, including the elderly and infirm. Uyghurs Muhammed Salih Hajim (2018), Yaqubjan Naman (2018), Abdughappar Abdujappar (2018), Ayhan Memet (2018), Abdulreshit Seley Hajim (2018), Nurimangul Memet (2018), Adalet Teyip (2018), Abdulehed Mehsun (2017), Hesen Imin (2017), and Sawut Raxman (2017) reportedly died while in the custody of the Chinese authorities in “political reeducation” camps, without proper investigation of the circumstances.

(11) Uyghurs and Kazakhs, who have now obtained permanent residence or citizenship in other countries, attest to receiving threats and harassment from Chinese officials.

(12) Under pressure from the Government of the People's Republic of China, countries have forcibly returned Uyghurs to China in violation of the non-refoulement principle and their well-founded fear of persecution. States returning Uyghurs include Egypt, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and India.

(13) Six journalists for Radio Free Asia's Uyghur service have publicly detailed abuses their family members in Xinjiang have endured in response to their work exposing abusive policies across the region.

(14) Several United States-based companies are conducting business with Xinjiang authorities without sufficient due diligence or safeguards to ensure their business operations do not create or contribute to human rights violations.

(15) The Government of the People's Republic of China is increasingly investing in the “Belt and Road Initiative” across Xinjiang and throughout Central Asia, extending its influence through organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization without regard to the political, religious, cultural, or linguistic rights of ethnic minorities.

(16) The Secretary of State, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, and individual members of the executive branch and Congress have all expressed growing concern regarding the pervasive human rights abuses across Xinjiang and the “political reeducation” camps.

(17) In August 2018, the United Nations Committee to Eliminate Racial Discrimination challenged the Government of the People's Republic of China over abuses in Xinjiang, including the establishment of mass arbitrary detention camps.

(18) Between August and September 2018, Chinese authorities responded to these allegations by either flatly denying them or insisting that the facilities are “vocational training centers”.

(19) In September 2018, newly appointed United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet noted in her first speech as High Commissioner the “deeply disturbing allegations of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uyghurs and other Muslim communities, in so-called re-education camps across Xinjiang”.

(20) On September 18, 2018, the Washington Post editorial board wrote, “At stake is not just the welfare of the Uyghurs, but also whether the