

to spread disinformation or to intimidate and threaten its perceived enemies in Hong Kong or in other countries is unacceptable; and

(3) the Secretary of State should take any activities described in paragraph (1) or (2) into consideration when granting visas for travel and work in the United States to journalists from the People's Republic of China who are affiliated with any such media organizations.

SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COMMERCIAL EXPORTS OF CROWD CONTROL EQUIPMENT TO HONG KONG.

It is sense of Congress that the Department of Commerce, in conjunction with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, should consider appropriate adjustments to the current United States export controls with respect to Hong Kong to prevent the supply of crowd control and surveillance equipment that could be used inappropriately in Hong Kong.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

MR. SCHUMER. Madam President, I sincerely thank my colleagues. This has been a great bipartisan moment on the floor of the Senate for a very important issue.

I particularly thank my colleagues from Florida, Senator RUBIO; from Maryland, Senator CARDIN; from New Jersey, Senator MENENDEZ; and from Idaho, Senator RISCH, as well as all the others who had a hand in this work.

The Senate has just sent a resounding message to the Chinese Communist Party and President Xi that the United States stands with the democratic protestors in Hong Kong. The bipartisan legislation, with the great help of the chair and ranking members of the Foreign Relations Committee, will safeguard Hong Kong's democracy and autonomy and hold accountable those responsible for any human rights abuses in Hong Kong. The bipartisan legislation that will soon be offered by the Senators from Oregon and Texas will make sure that U.S. companies don't sell riot equipment to Hong Kong.

We have sent a message to President Xi: Your suppression of freedom, whether in Hong Kong, in northwest China, or anywhere else, will not stand. You cannot be a great leader and you cannot be a great country when you oppose freedom, when you are so brutal to the people of Hong Kong, young and old, who are protesting, when you are so brutal to the Uighurs in northwest China, and when China is censored so that Chinese people can't get the truth. History has shown that that always fails, President Xi—always fails.

China has taken dramatic steps backward in the curtailment of freedom.

As my colleagues well know, the protests in Hong Kong have now taken an ominous turn. The Hong Kong police—no doubt at the behest of the Communist Party in Beijing—have undertaken an increasingly violent crackdown on student protesters. As the ruling party in Beijing continues to flout Hong Kong's judicial independence while perpetrating a brutal suppression of minority groups from one end of

China to the other, Americans' support for the democratic rights of Hong Kong citizenry is paramount.

To the people of China: We stand with you in freedom.

To the kids in Hong Kong, the students and the adults: We stand with you.

To the Uighurs who simply want to practice their religion: We stand with you.

Freedom will prevail, and the Chinese system will either change or fail.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PROHIBITING THE COMMERCIAL EXPORT OF COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS TO THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE

MR. MERKLEY. Madam President, on June 9, the streets of Hong Kong filled with over 1 million individuals peacefully protesting what they saw as an unjust law and attack on democracy. It was an incredible visual of people standing up for democracy and standing up for human rights.

Here we are 5 months later, and the images are much different. You would be forgiven if you saw them and thought they were in a war zone. Hundreds of student protesters barricaded themselves in a Hong Kong university surrounded by armored riot police, pummeled by rubber bullets and tear gas, fires raging, destruction, devastation, and smoke everywhere.

There have been 5 months of protests, rising anger, and tension. There have been 5 months of police crackdowns on peaceful protests, spurring further protests and resistance, and U.S.-made, U.S.-exported police equipment being misused by the Hong Kong police to violate the human rights of protesters. So far, over 10,000 rounds of tear gas have been fired into the crowds of protesters.

We believe in free speech, freedom to assemble, freedom to protest, not state-sponsored oppression and violence. It is time to ban the export of U.S.-made police equipment to Hong Kong that is being used to abuse their human rights. That is why I am so pleased to introduce, in partnership with my colleague from Texas, S. 2710, which prohibits the export of munitions and crowd-control equipment to the Hong Kong Police Force.

Since the protests in June, over 1,700 Hong Kong residents have been injured and over 5,000 have been arrested. Amnesty International verified incidents involving the dangerous use of U.S.-made pepper spray, batons used to beat protesters, rubber bullets, and tear gas. One young woman was clubbed from behind with a police baton and continued to be beaten even after she was on the ground with her arms zip-tied behind her.

We have seen tear gas fired into confined spaces, in violation of the U.N. Basic Principles on the Use of Force

and Firearms. We have seen brutal police tactics that continued even when women and men were held in captivity or in custody. There has been report after report of violent assaults taking place inside police stations.

We cannot turn a blind eye. It is time to stand with the people of Hong Kong who are demanding a democratic future and against the violent suppression of free speech.

The bill the Senator from Texas and I have introduced lays out a series of products that we will no longer export to the Hong Kong Police Force: tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, foam and bean bag rounds, pepper balls, water cannons, handcuffs, shackles, stun guns, and tasers.

This bill is backed by many colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I say a huge thank-you to Senator MARKEY, Senator BLACKBURN, Senator LEAHY, Senator SCOTT, Senator COONS, Senator WICKER, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator INHOFE, Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator CARDIN, Senator WYDEN, Senator BRAUN, Senator GARDNER, and Senator VAN HOLLEN.

I am really proud to stand here in a bipartisan representation tonight, to stand with my colleagues who have introduced the Hong Kong Human Rights Democracy Act, and to stand together in a bipartisan fashion to ban the export of these brutal crowd-control strategies being misused in Hong Kong by their police to abuse the protesters.

I turn to my colleague from Texas.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

MR. CORNYN. Madam President, for months, the world has watched as the brave citizens of Hong Kong have sustained protests against China's decades-long degradation of their civil liberties.

The U.N. High Commissioner has found credible evidence of the Hong Kong Police Force using nonlethal crowd-control weapons in ways that violate international norms and standards. That is why I am proud to support the bipartisan PROTECT Hong Kong Act, as described by our colleague Senator MERKLEY.

The PROTECT Hong Kong Act would direct the President to ban the issuance of licenses for commercial export of riot-control weapons like tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, stun guns, and tasers to the Hong Kong Police Force. This ensures that the Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters are not subjected to police brutality using products made in the United States of America. I am also proud to support the just-passed Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act.

I think the statement being made by the passage of these two pieces of legislation and the presence today of so many of our colleagues on a bipartisan basis standing with the people of Hong Kong against this oppression by their Communist overlords is very, very significant.

Now more than ever, the United States must send a clear message to

China that the free world stands with Hongkongers in their struggle.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I want to take a moment to congratulate my colleague from Oregon and a distinguished member of the Foreign Relations Committee who has worked on this issue, alongside of Senator CORNYN, with great skill in a way that allowed the legislation we just passed to take place, which he strongly supports, and to make his legislation, along with Senator CORNYN, a reality shortly. He has been very adept about it and very constructive. It is going to be a great moment when we send a message that U.S. weaponry isn't going to be part of the oppression in Hong Kong. I salute him, and I join him in his effort.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSOR

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be included as an original cosponsor of the legislation.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, on behalf of myself and Senator CORNYN, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from consideration of S. 2710 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2710) to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Merkley amendments, which are at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendments (Nos. 1247 and 1248) were agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1247

(Purpose: To include the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate as part of the notification requirement)

On page 1, line 7, insert "the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and" before "the Committee on Foreign Relations".

AMENDMENT NO. 1248

(Purpose: To provide a one-year sunset)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

The prohibition under section 2 shall expire one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 2710), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2710

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS.—The term "covered munitions items" means tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, foam rounds, bean bag rounds, pepper balls, water cannons, handcuffs, shackles, stun guns, and tasers.

(3) HONG KONG.—The term "Hong Kong" has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5702).

(4) HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.—The term "Hong Kong Police Force" means—

(A) the Hong Kong Police Force; and

(B) the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL EXPORT OF COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS TO THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prohibit the issuance of licenses to export covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition set forth in subsection (a) shall not apply to the issuance of a license with respect to which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees, not fewer than 30 days before the date of such issuance, a written notice—

(1) certifying that the exports to be covered by such license are important to the national interests and foreign policy goals of the United States; and

(2) describing the manner in which such exports will promote such interests and goals.

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

The prohibition under section 2 shall expire one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CAREER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, when we in Congress are fortunate enough to win our elections, we then must take an oath of office. It is quite simple and straightforward: "I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God"—defend the Constitution and faithfully discharge the duties of this sacred office. Notably, the oath does not say defend the President over the rule of law or our constitutional duties.

And yet President Trump has made crude and inexcusable attacks against our professional diplomats and military officials who bravely and patriotically tried to abide by this same oath by upholding these values of honor and the rule of law. Career professionals testifying as part of the ongoing impeachment inquiry are facing partisan attacks and even efforts that threaten their lives and careers. President Trump has made no secret of his long-held suspicion of government workers, which he and his allies have perpetually accused of trying to bring down his Presidency.

That former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch told House Members that she felt "threatened" by our own President who called her "bad news" is despicable. In fact, Trump even attacked Yovanovitch on Twitter last week during her powerful public testimony before the House Intelligence Committee.

There have also been countless baseless attacks and insulting questions of loyalty faced by witnesses such as LTC Alexander Vindman. Vindman, who was born in Kiev, immigrated to the U.S. and spent 20 years as an Army officer, an officer who has shed blood for our country, as recognized by his Purple Heart.

Twenty-five years ago, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was another longtime Army officer who was born behind the Iron Curtain. GEN John Shalikashvili was born in Poland and moved to Peoria, IL, when he was 16. Thank goodness he served our country in a time where his career was not derailed by such degrading attacks.

I commend Defense Secretary Esper for promising that Lieutenant Colonel Vindman "shouldn't have any fear of retaliation," which only begs the question: Why can't Secretary Pompeo make the same promise for State Department officials? U.S. diplomats and military officials put their lives at risk every day at embassies and conflict zones around the world. To be attacked by their own government—and at the highest levels—defies belief and is beneath the offices they hold.

That President Trump and Republicans deride and bully these American patriots for telling the truth while Secretary Pompeo sits silently on his hands is simply beyond the pale. It is the opposite of what we teach our children. These career professionals—these