

SENATE RESOLUTION 432—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 432

Whereas equality of opportunity for all people is one of the noblest aspirations of the United States;

Whereas the National Center for Education Statistics reports that the employment rate for young adults with a bachelor’s degree and the employment rate for young adults whose highest credential is a high school diploma differ by 14 percentage points;

Whereas a 2015 study by Georgetown University identified that the average lifetime earnings gap between college graduates and individuals with only a high school diploma is \$1,000,000;

Whereas the Pew Economic Mobility Project finds that whether a child born in the lowest income quintile obtains a 4-year degree or higher credential is associated with—

(1) an approximately 70 percent difference in the probability of that child earning an income outside the lowest income quintile; and

(2) a threefold difference in the probability of that child going on to earn an income in the highest income quintile;

Whereas the Education Commission of the States highlights that the number of non-traditional students at colleges and universities is expected to rise 65 percent faster than the number of traditional students during the 15-year period ending in 2024;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that approximately 31 percent of high school graduates in 2018 did not matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester, representing little change in the college enrollment of new high school graduates from the prior year;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics also reports that the unemployment rate for recent high school graduates not enrolled in college in the fall semester of 2018 was 18.6 percent, significantly higher than the national unemployment rate;

Whereas many secondary students struggle to identify and assess postsecondary options due to a number of factors, including insufficient information on programmatic outcomes and difficulties in accessing effective or consistent counseling services and resources;

Whereas the complexity of financial aid systems and processes, rising college costs, and a shortage of effective financial education and literacy programs can serve as additional deterrents or barriers for students and families as they assess the viability of higher education programs as a postsecondary option;

Whereas the United States built a thriving middle class in part by nurturing the potential for colleges and universities to provide avenues to economic opportunity;

Whereas the data on the benefits of higher education demonstrate that, in spite of ongoing barriers to access and student success, colleges and universities can still provide pathways to economic opportunity; and

Whereas completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is one of the best predictors of future college enrollment, as high school seniors who complete the form are 63 percent more likely to begin postsecondary education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2019 as “National College Application Month”;
 (2) encourages the people of the United States to—
 (A) evaluate options for pursuing higher education;
 (B) submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid to understand college financing opportunities; and

(C) support every student, regardless of the background or resources of the student, in obtaining the skills and knowledge needed to thrive;

(3) supports efforts to better assist low-income and first generation students throughout the financial aid and college application process;

(4) urges public officials, educators, parents, students, and communities in the United States to observe National College Application Month with appropriate activities and programs designed to encourage students to consider, research, and apply to college and for financial aid; and

(5) commends teachers, counselors, mentors, and parents who support students throughout the college application process, as well as the organizations and institutions partnering to eliminate barriers to higher education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 433—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 1, 2020, AS “BLUE STAR MOTHER’S DAY”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 433

Whereas, on January 22, 1942, in the midst of the Second World War, United States Army Captain George Maines ran an advertisement in the Flint News Observer calling for mothers of members of the Armed Forces to meet;

Whereas, on February 1, 1942, 300 mothers of members of the Armed Forces held their first meeting at the Durant Hotel in Flint, Michigan, and February 1, 2020, is the 78th anniversary of that meeting;

Whereas, on July 14, 1960, the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., received its charter from Congress;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers make enormous sacrifices while their sons and daughters are providing for the defense of the United States;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers pack and ship thousands of care packages every year to members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas, volunteer to help homeless veterans, provide support for wounded warriors, visit with hospitalized veterans, honor fallen heroes during funeral services, and offer a compassionate community for the mothers of men and women of the Armed Forces serving in harm’s way;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers promote the values of the United States, demonstrate a patriotic spirit, and advance a national sense of pride and appreciation for the men and women of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas there are 198 active chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., throughout the United States representing thousands of military families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 1, 2020, as “Blue Star Mother’s Day”;
 (2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.; and

(B) the important role Blue Star Mothers play in supporting each other and members and veterans of the Armed Forces; and
 (3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to observe Blue Star Mother’s Day; and
 (B) to support the work of local chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

SENATE RESOLUTION 434—HONORING THE LIFE OF NICHOLAS ANTHONY BUONICONTI

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 434

Whereas Nicholas Anthony Buoniconti (referred to in this preamble as “Nick Buoniconti”) passed away at his home in Bridgehampton, New York, on July 30, 2019;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti was born on December 15, 1940, in Springfield, Massachusetts;

Whereas the parents of Nick Buoniconti, Nicholas Buoniconti Sr. and Pasqualina (Mercolino) Buoniconti, contributed greatly to the Springfield community and ran an Italian bakery named Mercolino’s in the South End neighborhood of the city;

Whereas the brother of Nick Buoniconti, Peter Buoniconti, remembers him as the best athlete and the smartest and toughest kid in the South End;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti played guard on offense and linebacker on defense for the football team of the University of Notre Dame and graduated from the university in 1962;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti was chosen in the 13th round of the 1962 American Football League (referred to in this preamble as the “AFL”) draft by the Boston Patriots;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti played for the Patriots from 1962 until 1968;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti appeared in 5 AFL All-Star games and made 24 interceptions during his time with the Patriots;

Whereas, in 1968, Nick Buoniconti earned his juris doctor from Suffolk University Law School in Boston and was a member of both the Florida Bar and the Massachusetts Bar;

Whereas, in 1969, Nick Buoniconti was traded to the Miami Dolphins, for whom he played until 1976;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti was the captain of the back-to-back Super Bowl Championship teams of the Dolphins, including the undefeated 1972 team;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti earned the Most Valuable Player title of the Dolphins 3 times during his career with the team;

Whereas, in 7 seasons with the Dolphins, Nick Buoniconti earned 3 Pro Bowl berths and advanced to 3 straight Super Bowl appearances, winning 2 of them;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti was inducted into the National Football League (referred to in this preamble as the “NFL”) Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2001 for his years as a middle linebacker with the Patriots and the Dolphins;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti served as an agent to professional athletes and, for 23 seasons, co-hosted the weekly sports show “Inside the NFL”;

Whereas, on September 8, 2019, the Dolphins honored the passing of Nick Buoniconti by wearing a helmet sticker with his initials, “NAB”, during the regular season opener of the team;

Whereas current NFL commissioner Roger Goodell praised Nick Buoniconti for his grit, fearlessness, and skill while playing with the Patriots and the Dolphins;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti consistently advocated and fought for the health and safety of other NFL players;

Whereas, in 1985, the beloved son of Nick Buoniconti, Marc Buoniconti, became a quadriplegic after suffering a spinal cord injury while playing college football;

Whereas Nick and Marc Buoniconti were among the co-founders of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, a leading research center for spinal cord and brain injuries;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti founded The Buoniconti Fund, which has raised more than \$500,000,000 to fund the mission of the Miami Project to find a cure for paralysis resulting from spinal cord injury;

Whereas Nick Buoniconti donated his brain to the Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (referred to in this preamble as “CTE”) Center of Boston University and the Concussion Legacy Foundation;

Whereas, upon making the decision to donate his brain, Nick Buoniconti expressed his hope for a better understanding of the long-term effects of CTE and other brain injuries that impact thousands of individuals each year; and

Whereas Nick Buoniconti served on the Board of Trustees of the University of Miami for 27 years and received the Man of the Year “Helping Hands Award” from the Miller School of Medicine; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends its heartfelt sympathies to the family, friends, and teammates of Nicholas Anthony Buoniconti (referred to in this resolving clause as “Nicholas Buoniconti”);

(2) honors the life and legacy of Nicholas Buoniconti; and

(3) expresses appreciation for the fight of Nicholas Buoniconti both on and off the field.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1246. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1838, to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes.

SA 1247. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2710, to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

SA 1248. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2710, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1246. Mr. RUBIO proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1838, to amend the Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Statement of policy.

Sec. 4. Amendments to the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992.

Sec. 5. Annual report on violations of United States export control laws and United Nations sanctions occurring in Hong Kong.

Sec. 6. Protecting United States citizens and others from rendition to the People’s Republic of China.

Sec. 7. Sanctions relating to undermining fundamental freedoms and autonomy in Hong Kong.

Sec. 8. Sanctions reports.

Sec. 9. Sense of Congress on People’s Republic of China state-controlled media.

Sec. 10. Sense of Congress on commercial exports of crowd control equipment to Hong Kong.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

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

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(J) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) SOCIAL CREDIT SYSTEM.—The term “social credit system” means a system proposed by the Government of the People’s Republic of China and scheduled for implementation by 2020, which would—

(A) use existing financial credit systems, public records, online activity, and other tools of surveillance to aggregate data on every Chinese citizen and business; and

(B) use such data to monitor, shape, and rate certain financial, social, religious, or political behaviors.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen;

(B) a lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States; or

(C) an entity organized under the laws of—

(i) the United States; or

(ii) any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to reaffirm the principles and objectives set forth in the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-383), namely that—

(A) the United States has “a strong interest in the continued vitality, prosperity, and stability of Hong Kong”;

(B) “[s]upport for democratization is a fundamental principle of United States foreign policy” and therefore “naturally applies to United States policy toward Hong Kong”;

(C) “the human rights of the people of Hong Kong are of great importance to the United States and are directly relevant to United States interests in Hong Kong [and] serve as a basis for Hong Kong’s continued economic prosperity”; and

(D) Hong Kong must remain sufficiently autonomous from the People’s Republic of China to “justify treatment under a particular law of the United States, or any provision thereof, different from that accorded the People’s Republic of China”;

(2) to support the high degree of autonomy and fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, as enumerated by—

(A) the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing December

19, 1984 (referred to in this Act as the “Joint Declaration”);

(B) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, done at New York December 19, 1966; and

(C) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, done at Paris December 10, 1948;

(3) to support the democratic aspirations of the people of Hong Kong, including the “ultimate aim” of the selection of the Chief Executive and all members of the Legislative Council by universal suffrage, as articulated in the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (referred to in this Act as the “Basic Law”);

(4) to urge the Government of the People’s Republic of China to uphold its commitments to Hong Kong, including allowing the people of Hong Kong to govern Hong Kong with a high degree of autonomy and without undue interference, and ensuring that Hong Kong voters freely enjoy the right to elect the Chief Executive and all members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council by universal suffrage;

(5) to support the establishment of a genuine democratic option to freely and fairly nominate and elect the Chief Executive of Hong Kong, and the establishment by 2020 of open and direct democratic elections for all members of the Hong Kong Legislative Council;

(6) to support the robust exercise by residents of Hong Kong of the rights to free speech, the press, and other fundamental freedoms, as provided by the Basic Law, the Joint Declaration, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(7) to support freedom from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention, or imprisonment for all Hong Kong residents, as provided by the Basic Law, the Joint Declaration, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(8) to draw international attention to any violations by the Government of the People’s Republic of China of the fundamental rights of the people of Hong Kong, as provided by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and any encroachment upon the autonomy guaranteed to Hong Kong by the Basic Law and the Joint Declaration;

(9) to protect United States citizens and long-term permanent residents living in Hong Kong, as well as people visiting and transiting through Hong Kong;

(10) to maintain the economic and cultural ties that provide significant benefits to both the United States and Hong Kong; and

(11) to coordinate with allies, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, to promote democracy and human rights in Hong Kong.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES-HONG KONG POLICY ACT OF 1992.

(a) REPORT.—Title II of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5721 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 201(b), by striking “such date” each place such term appears and inserting “the date of the enactment of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019”; and

(2) adding at the end the following:

SEC. 205. SECRETARY OF STATE REPORT REGARDING THE AUTONOMY OF HONG KONG.

“(a) CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of State, on at least an annual basis, and in conjunction with the report required under section 301, shall issue a certification to Congress that—

“(A) indicates whether Hong Kong continues to warrant treatment under United States law in the same manner as United