

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 230. A bill to require a report on foreign nationals who flee from the United States while awaiting trial or sentencing for a criminal offense committed in the United States, to establish a list of countries who have assisted or facilitated with such departures, to penalize parties connected to such departures, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the exclusion from gross income from certain investments made by foreign governments who are identified on such list; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Preserving American Justice Act to ensure that foreign governments face serious consequences if they assist their citizens to escape legal accountability in the United States.

Recently, Oregon's largest newspaper, The Oregonian, uncovered that five Saudi nationals with criminal charges departed the Nation before facing justice. These men were arrested for serious crimes including vehicular murder of an innocent teenager, sexual assault, rape, and child pornography. According to news reports, U.S. government officials believe the Saudi government helped these five men with actions ranging from posting bail to facilitating their escape from the United States. These reports claiming the Saudi government is whisking away criminals facing justice in Oregon show a shocking disdain for our Nation's criminal justice system. Given the disturbing similarities in these five cases, a thorough investigation is essential to better understand the involvement of the Saudi government.

When anyone commits a crime in the United States, they must be held accountable. The Trump administration has failed to explain what, if anything, it is doing to ensure these men face American justice. That failure is completely unacceptable. Foreign governments cannot disregard our laws and abuse diplomatic privileges by helping criminals escape. No one is above the law, and I am committed to making sure the Saudi government understands that it cannot behave this way here in Oregon or anywhere in the United States.

The legislation I introduced today would direct the Department of Justice to investigate these five cases and bring to light the involvement of the Saudi government. If the Department of Justice concludes that the Saudi government was involved, then my bill would bar Saudi Arabia's leaders from the United States until their government returns the suspects who have fled. The legislation would also create a major tax penalty on governments and sovereign wealth funds for any country that helps its citizens escape American justice. More broadly, my

legislation would help Americans understand how widespread this practice is, direct the Department of Justice to maintain a list of any foreign governments that help their citizens evade American justice, and create tough consequences for those governments and their leaders.

I believe that my colleagues who talk about "putting America First" would agree that foreign governments cannot undermine American laws. I'm all for doing more to protect Americans from real threats and ensuring that the victims of these crimes get the justice they deserve in an American court of law. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting measures that would hold foreign governments accountable.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 29—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A "WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH DAY"

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions:

S. RES. 29

Whereas women constitute 50.8 percent of people in the United States;

Whereas women of different races, ethnicities, ages, and socioeconomic status experience many diseases and disorders differently than men experience those diseases and disorders;

Whereas those different experiences are reflected in the incidence, prevalence, symptomology, and severity of the disease or disorder;

Whereas the risks and benefits of medical therapies vary based on the race, ethnicity, age, and socioeconomic status of a woman;

Whereas women and men have fundamental biological differences;

Whereas, for many years, women of different races, ethnicities, ages, and socioeconomic status were underrepresented in biomedical and clinical research;

Whereas the improvement of the health of women relies on sex- and gender-based biomedical and clinical research;

Whereas the promise of individualized medicine cannot be realized without sex- and gender-based parity in research;

Whereas, on January 25, 2016, the National Institutes of Health implemented a policy requiring federally funded investigators to consider sex as a biological variable in pre-clinical research; and

Whereas that policy ushered in a new era of inclusivity and parity in research relating to the health of women: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of a "Women's Health Research Day"; and

(2) supports efforts—

(A) to recognize the importance of biomedical and clinical research to the health and well-being of women;

(B) to increase awareness of the value of sex- and gender-based biomedical research; and

(C) to encourage individuals, including researchers and patients, to advocate on behalf of sex- and gender-inclusive research for women of different races, ethnicities, ages, and socioeconomic status.

SENATE RESOLUTION 30—CONDAMNING EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY IN HUNGARY AND URGING PRESIDENT TRUMP TO DEFEND THE UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC NORMS UNDER ATTACK BY THE ORBAN GOVERNMENT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 30

Whereas the United States and Hungary have a shared history dating to the times of Lajos Kossuth, whose bust graces the halls of the United States Congress;

Whereas Hungarians have come to the United States since its founding as immigrants and refugees, enriching our national fabric;

Whereas the United States first established diplomatic relations with Hungary in 1921;

Whereas the United States supported Hungary's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1999, improving Hungary's national security and building upon our common alliance;

Whereas NATO member states have collectively identified corruption and poor governance, including within member states, as "security challenges which undermine democracy, the rule of law and economic development";

Whereas Viktor Orban has led the Fidesz party since 2003 and has continuously served as Hungary's Prime Minister since 2010;

Whereas, since 2010, the Fidesz government has retained a super majority in Parliament despite not winning a majority of votes, and Prime Minister Orban has systematically undermined the Hungarian Constitution, independent media and judiciary;

Whereas Hungary's 2011 law on religion discriminates against some minority faiths by stripping legal recognition from more than 300 previously recognized faiths, violating their rights to freedom of association and freedom of religion, and has spurred a legal challenge from a range of religious faiths in Hungary, including the Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship and Mennonite, reform Jewish, and Buddhist congregations;

Whereas, following the 2014 Parliamentary elections in Hungary, the OSCE noted that Fidesz enjoyed an undue advantage because of restrictive campaign regulations, biased media coverage, and campaign activities that blurred the separation between political party and the state;

Whereas Prime Minister Orban used his parliamentary super majority to redraw Hungary's electoral map and reduce the number of seats in Hungary's Parliament, providing an advantage which has allowed the Prime Minister to more easily remain in power;

Whereas the Government of Hungary created the National Media and Communications Agency and empowered it to impose fines against independent media outlets for coverage the government finds unbalanced or offensive;

Whereas, in November 2018, more than 400 media publications, websites, television

channels and radio stations in Hungary, already concentrated in the hands of a few owners, were donated, without compensation, by their owners to a central holding company which, according to a subsequently passed law, is exempt from competition oversight;

Whereas, according to the Department of State's 2017 report on human rights, Hungary has passed a series of laws modifying the judicial system by restricting the Constitutional Court, altering the rules for electing Constitution Court justices, and vested the president of the National Office for the Judiciary, a position appointed by the parliament, with significant decision-making power;

Whereas, according to a Human Rights Watch analysis of Hungary's judicial reforms since 2011, changes to the judiciary have undermined an important check on the government by curbing the judiciary's independence, forcing nearly 300 judges into early retirement, and imposing limitations on the Constitutional Court's ability to review laws and complaints;

Whereas the Government of Hungary has enacted legislation stigmatizing non-governmental organizations that receive financial support from abroad, drawing a legal challenge from the European Court of Justice;

Whereas, in 2017, the Government of Hungary adopted a law on nongovernmental organizations that, according to the Department of State, "unfairly burdens a targeted group of Hungarian civil society organizations, many of which focus on fighting corruption and protecting human rights and civil liberties";

Whereas, in February 2018, more than 250 nongovernmental organizations signed a letter in opposition to Hungary's "escalating effort to crackdown on the legitimate work of civil society groups in Hungary seeking to promote and defend human rights, provide legal and social services to people in need in the country, and publicly express dissenting opinions in the press and online";

Whereas, in 2018, the Government of Hungary adopted amendments to a law on "aiding illegal migration," which criminalizes the provision of assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers, including public advocacy and humanitarian assistance, and makes the distribution of know-your-rights leaflets punishable by up to one year in prison;

Whereas, in 2018, the Government of Hungary introduced a 25 percent tax on organizations that engage in disfavored speech regarding immigration, thereby establishing a content-based punishment to restrict free speech;

Whereas, in 2017, the Government of Hungary enacted a law requiring the mandatory detention of all asylum-seekers in "transit camps" while their asylum applications are reviewed and permitting the immediate deportation of certain asylum-seekers to Serbia;

Whereas, in response, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that "this new law violates Hungary's obligations under international and EU laws, and will have a terrible physical and psychological impact on women, children and men who have already greatly suffered"; and

Whereas the erosion of democratic institutions and norms in Hungary has been found to be in clear violation of the European Union's values, resulting in the initiation of sanctions proceedings against the Orban government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) rejects the Government of Hungary's efforts to undermine the independence of the judiciary, restrict civil society groups, infringe on the freedom of the press, and vio-

late the rights of asylum-seekers in Hungary; and

(2) urges the President to vigorously defend the universal freedoms and democratic norms under attack by the Orban government in Hungary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 31—HONORING THE LIFE OF HARRIS L. WOFFORD, JR.

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 31

Whereas the life of service and commitment of Harris L. Wofford, Jr., is an inspiration to the people of the United States and people around the world and will be for years to come;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., served in the Army Air Corps during World War II;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., served on the Civil Rights Commission established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., was a champion of civil rights and nonviolence and helped create and pass the Civil Rights Act of 1957 (Public Law 85-315; 71 Stat. 634), the first civil rights legislation since Reconstruction;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., served as Special Assistant to the President for Civil Rights and Chairman of the Subcabinet Group on Civil Rights under President John F. Kennedy;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., played a key role in the formation of the Peace Corps and served as the special representative to Africa and director and associate director of operations in Ethiopia;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., participated in the Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights marches in 1965 in support of voting rights for African Americans;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., was a staunch advocate for higher education and served as the President of the State University of New York at Old Westbury and the President of Bryn Mawr College;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., served as Secretary of Labor and Industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from 1987 to 1991;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., served as a United States Senator for Pennsylvania from May 8, 1991, to January 3, 1995;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., was an advocate for health care access;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., championed national service and was instrumental in passing the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-82), which established AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America, and served as head of AmeriCorps;

Whereas Harris L. Wofford, Jr., helped establish the Federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., as a national day of service and worked on legislation directing the Corporation for National and Community Service to spearhead the effort marking this day of service; and

Whereas, in 2012, Harris L. Wofford, Jr., was awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second-highest civilian honor in the United States, for his lifetime of humanitarian work: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of Harris L. Wofford, Jr.;

(B) extends heartfelt sympathy to the entire family of Harris L. Wofford, Jr.;

(C) honors and, on behalf of the United States, expresses deep appreciation for the

outstanding and important service of Harris L. Wofford, Jr., to the United States; and

(D) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Harris L. Wofford, Jr.; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Harris L. Wofford, Jr.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 54. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. SHELBY) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 28, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

SA 55. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. SHELBY) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 31, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 54. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. SHELBY) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 28, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019".

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (division C of Public Law 115-245) is further amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 105(3) and inserting "February 15, 2019"; and

(2) by adding after section 136 the following:

"SEC. 137. Amounts made available in this Act for personnel pay, allowances, and benefits in each department and agency shall be available for obligations incurred pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1341 of title 31, United States Code.

"SEC. 138. All obligations incurred and in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by this Act for the purposes of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government function, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of this Act.

"SEC. 139. (a) If a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds (or the grantee's non-Federal funds) to continue carrying out a Federal program or furloughed State employees (or the grantee's employees) whose compensation is advanced or reimbursed in whole or in part by the Federal Government—

"(1) such furloughed employees shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation for such period;

"(2) the State (or such other grantee) shall be reimbursed for expenses that would have been paid by the Federal Government during such period had appropriations been available, including the cost of compensating such furloughed employees, together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code; and

"(3) the State (or such other grantee) may use funds available to the State (or the