

the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq—very, very specific.

Now, the administration is arguing that this AUMF from 2002, about Iraq, provides authority to go to war against Iran. It is just like the stretching of the 2001 AUMF that said go after those who harbored the 9/11 terrorists but has been stretched to go after other groups all over the world.

But in both these cases, it was an authorization. Congress did debate. Yes, they have been abused after they were passed, but what there wasn't was an open door without Congress involved.

So we must do our job here and realize the gravity of these conflicts and get the full, extensive information and make sure there is no fake news in that information.

On the Iraq AUMF, this body operated on the solemn guarantee that there were weapons of mass destruction being developed by Iraq. It proved out to be false.

So when we do hold the debate over Iran, let's make sure we get the absolutely honest intelligence, not the spin, not the cherry-picked intelligence, not partial, not selected to drive a conclusion—the honest, fully honest, situation of our activities and their activities and the threats that they pose.

That is the responsibility we have—to make sure that the information we wrestle with is absolutely accurate and then to weigh the heavy cost of different strategies that may or may not involve force before we vote for force. It is a big responsibility, and I have heard Members of this Chamber say: You know what; it is such a tough decision. What if I get it wrong? Let's just let the Executive make that decision. If I misjudge it and don't vote to go to war and, for example, maybe there were those weapons of mass destruction equivalent to Iraq, I don't want to make that mistake, and people back home will not like it if I make that mistake. If I vote to go to war and the information is wrong and the strategy is wrong, well, then, people back home won't like that either.

So let's just ignore the Constitution. Let's just ignore our oath to the Constitution. Let's just let the person down Pennsylvania Avenue do what he wants because we don't like the burden imposed on us by this document that says that issue has to be debated here.

The decision to use force has to be debated and decided here, not there, because it is too big a question to leave to a single individual.

Our Constitution starts out with these words: "We the people." They did not want to create a King. They did not want to create an imperial Presidency that acted like a King. They wanted a nation run of, by, and for the people.

The question of war is our responsibility. We must make the decision here, and that is why I urge my colleagues to take and say yes, we will vote for this S.J. Res. 68 because it says we are demanding the administra-

tion do what the Constitution demands, which is to place the question of going to war with Iran with this body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from North Dakota.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the only first-degree amendments in order to S. J. Res. 68 be the following: 1301, 1322, 1305, 1314, 1320, and 1319; I further ask that no second-degree amendments be in order to the amendments listed, with the exception of amendment No. 1319; that the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow; and that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to each vote. Further, I ask unanimous consent that all debate time on S.J. Res. 68 expire at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow, with the last 40 minutes, equally divided, under the control of Senators RISCH, INHOFE, MENENDEZ, and KAIN; and finally, that upon use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, as amended, if amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NOS. 1301, 1322, 1305, 1314, 1320, AND 1319, EN BLOC

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments listed be called up by number en bloc.

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

The clerk will report the amendments by number, en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CRAMER], for other Senators, proposes amendments numbered 1301, 1322, 1305, 1314, 1320, and 1319.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1301

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

In section 1, insert after paragraph (3) the following:

(4) Members of the United States Armed Forces and intelligence community, and all those involved in the planning of the January 2, 2020, strike on Qasem Soleimani, including President Donald J. Trump, should be commended for their efforts in a successful mission.

AMENDMENT NO. 1322

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

On page 2, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(5) More than 100 members of the United States Armed Forces sustained traumatic brain injuries in the Iranian retaliatory attack on the Ain al-Assad air base in Iraq despite initial reports that no casualties were sustained in the attack.

AMENDMENT NO. 1305

(Purpose: To exempt from the termination requirement United States Armed Forces engaged in operations directed at designated terrorist organizations)

On page 4, line 14, insert "except United States Armed Forces engaged in operations

directed at entities designated as foreign terrorist organizations under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)," after "or military,".

AMENDMENT NO. 1314

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

On page 1, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

(2) The President has a constitutional responsibility to take actions to defend the United States, its territories, possessions, citizens, service members, and diplomats from attack.

AMENDMENT NO. 1320

(Purpose: To amend the findings)

In section 1, strike paragraph (6) and insert the following:

(6) The United States Armed Forces are not currently engaged in hostilities, as contemplated by the War Powers Resolution, against Iran. The United States strike against terrorist leader Qasem Soleimani to protect the lives of United States service members and diplomats is lesser in scope, nature, and duration than, and consistent with, previous administrations' exercises of war powers.

(7) The United States' maximum pressure strategy against Iran has reduced the Government of Iran's resources available to attack the United States and United States interests by limiting the resources available to the Government of Iran to support weapons development and terrorist proxies throughout the region.

AMENDMENT NO. 1319

(Purpose: To amend the rule of construction)

In section 2, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to prevent the United States from defending itself, including its territories, citizens, troops, personnel, military bases, and diplomatic facilities from attack, including acting to prevent an attack; or

(2) to restrict missions related to force protection of United States aircraft, ships, or personnel.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK AND PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, since first emerging in Wuhan, China, on December 31, the outbreak of a new coronavirus, COVID-19, "novel coronavirus", has spread to 25 countries, infected more than 44,000 people, caused at least 1,100 deaths, forced entire cities into lockdown, triggered hundreds of international flight cancellations, restricted hundreds of Americans to U.S. military bases in Federal Government quarantine, and caused significant economic harm to countries and businesses around the globe, all this in only 6 weeks, with no end in sight.

The virus has infected and killed more people and has done so faster

than the SARS outbreak in China in the early 2000s, which infected 8,098 people and caused 774 deaths worldwide. The World Health Organization—WHO—has formally declared a public health emergency of international concern—the sixth such declaration since 2009—and the outbreak will get worse, possibly far worse, before it gets better.

While the novel coronavirus outbreak is alarming and is creating fear around the world, it should not be surprising.

Scientists, epidemiologists, and other global health experts have for years warned that infectious disease outbreaks will continue to occur more frequently and cause greater harm, and that most emerging viruses will spread from animals to humans. Such zoonotic viruses are increasingly common as human activity, including population growth and expanding human encroachment into wildlife habitat, increases contact between animals and humans, which is what happened in Wuhan.

The coronavirus strain threatening us today is believed to have emerged from a bat, and potentially passed through another animal before infecting humans in a live-animal market. Such animal markets, which in China and many other countries include bats, rats, birds, porcupines, and other animals infected with viruses, are sources of protein for hungry humans, but also serve as breeding grounds for zoonotic diseases.

Scientists estimate that there are more than 1.6 million unknown viral disease species in mammalian and avian populations, of which an estimated 600,000 to 850,000 have the potential to infect humans. As we saw during SARS, Ebola, and MERS and are now seeing once again, infectious disease outbreaks threaten not only human health but also cause economic harm and social upheaval.

We should all be asking whether we, the United States and the international community, are doing enough to combat and prepare for this known and escalating threat. It seems obvious that we are not.

In fact, while the President and Secretary of State have repeatedly said that protecting the health and safety of American citizens is their highest priority, that is not borne out by the facts. The American people should be aware that the Trump administration has consistently proposed cuts in funding for the very programs designed to help prevent outbreaks and contain the spread of infectious diseases like the novel coronavirus. Even in the President's fiscal year 2021 budget request sent to Congress this week, in the midst of a deadly infectious disease outbreak that will almost certainly become a global pandemic, the administration has proposed to pay less than half of what the U.S. owes WHO, in addition to requesting a 10 percent cut to U.S. Agency for International Development—USAID—pandemic preparedness

programs. It is a reckless game of Russian roulette with a global threat we absolutely must prepare for. Yesterday, it was SARS, then it was Ebola; today, it is Ebola again and a coronavirus. Tomorrow, it may be something that is even deadlier and spreads even faster. Fortunately for the American people, Congress has rejected those cuts in the past and increased funding for most global health programs, and I am confident we will do the same this year, but far more needs to be done.

Funding for pandemic preparedness at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USAID, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and other Federal agencies that play an indispensable role in preparing for and responding to outbreaks should be significantly increased, not forced to cut programs and personnel as the administration has proposed. It makes no sense to be shortchanging the agencies and programs we all depend on to protect public health, keep our ports of entry open, and keep our commerce flowing.

Pandemic response is critical, but often, by then, it is too late. We can and must do more to proactively reduce pandemic risk. One approach I have urged is for a global viral discovery effort. Such a concept was proven successful through USAID's PREDICT program, which used the collection and analysis of wildlife samples in areas of the world most at risk for zoonotic disease to identify new emerging viruses with pandemic potential. PREDICT was able to discover hundreds of disease pathogens at their source, rather than waiting for human infection.

In China, the PREDICT program sampled more than 10,000 bats and identified more than 500 new coronaviruses, including a strain that is a 96 percent match to the 2019 novel coronavirus strain. The known existence of and readily available data on such a close relative is one reason China was able to quickly sequence the novel strain and identify the animal source of the outbreak.

As the 10-year PREDICT program comes to an end this year, USAID is working to design the next phase of programming to build on the successful analytical and modeling work demonstrated through PREDICT. Others in the international community should use the lessons learned and techniques proven through PREDICT to inform their own efforts.

Investing in biomedical research focused on infectious disease is another crucial, proactive step to reducing pandemic risk. The NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases—NIAID—has a unique mandate to conduct and support basic and applied research on established infectious diseases and also to quickly launch a research response to newly emerging and reemerging infectious threats. With NIAID support, scientists design

and develop new diagnostics, treatments, and preventive strategies, including vaccines, which can be deployed to protect and treat people worldwide.

Yet, in the midst of the novel coronavirus emergency, the President's budget would cut \$3.1 billion from NIH and assumes the reduction is spread across-the-board to all 27 Institutes and Centers, including NIAID. Slashing infectious disease research programs threatens our ability to develop better therapeutics and vaccines for high priority pathogens, as well as the rapid development of medical countermeasures against emerging infectious diseases, like the coronavirus, when they arise.

The President's budget features similar dangerous cuts to CDC programs that have been pivotal in combating the novel coronavirus response, proposing a \$693 million overall decrease from fiscal year 2020. Although the administration touts its \$175 million proposal for Global Health Security in fiscal year 2021, it simultaneously cuts almost \$100 million from other crucial global health investments, including in global HIV/AIDS, global polio eradication, global immunization, and the global public health capacity and development programs. This is short-sighted and dangerous.

The President's budget proposes only \$50 million, a \$35 million decrease compared to fiscal year 2020, for CDC's Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund—IDRRRF—which has served as the primary source of funding for responding to the novel coronavirus outbreak. This risks potentially undermining the agency's ability to access funding to initiate an early and rapid response to emerging pandemic threats like novel coronavirus when the U.S. is faced with a public health emergency. The administration also proposes an \$85 million cut to the CDC's Center on Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease and a \$25 million cut to the Public Health Preparedness and Response Program.

Slashing these programs weakens CDC's ability to provide rapid scientific support during outbreaks of infectious disease, maintain support for global health programs that build core public health capabilities and bolster frontline preparedness internationally, and ensure that State and local health departments are ready to handle many different types of emergencies that threaten the health and resilience of families, communities, and the Nation. Thus, while the White House named its fiscal year 2021 budget A Budget for America's Future, it is anything but that. There is no better example of where this Administration's rhetoric clashes with reality than the drastic cuts they propose to the very programs that protect the American people from deadly communicative diseases.

I continue to urge USAID, other Federal agencies, the White House, and Members of Congress to support a more

proactive approach to reducing pandemic risk. Today, we are struggling to control outbreaks of Ebola and the novel coronavirus, and while we don't know which viruses will next attack us, we do know it is not a matter of if: but when, and we must do everything we can to prepare. The more information we have about potential zoonotic viruses, the better able we will be to respond. The stakes are immense. Thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, even millions of lives could be lost, and the amount of funding necessary to control it would be incalculable.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I was presiding over the Committee on Foreign Relations while the chairman was voting. The vote ended before I was able to return and cast my vote in favor of the confirmation of John Fitzgerald Kness to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 2020 ARKANSAS BUSINESS HALL OF FAME HONOREES

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the newest members of the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame.

Arkansas native Olivia Farrell is a shining example of what a lifetime of hard work and devotion looks like. After graduating from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1978, she joined the Arkansas Writers Project, selling ads for the Arkansas Times. Shortly after, the Writers Project also created Arkansas Business, which was later purchased by Farrell and became the Arkansas Business Publishing Group, where she served as CEO.

Not only did Farrell find personal success in business, but she also sought to help bring more women into the business community. As such, Farrell created and promoted an annual magazine highlighting the top 100 women in Arkansas. This list encouraged companies and their stakeholders to bring more women into their ranks. Furthermore, she created the Women's Foundation of Arkansas to promote increased investment in women's education, business opportunities, and philanthropy.

Some of her most notable awards include being inducted in the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame, as well as being the recipient of the Business and Professional Leader of the Year award by the Rotary Club of Little Rock. Her leadership and kindness have been the subject of much deserved praise.

Reynie Rutledge was born in Smackover, AR. Growing up in a small Arkansas town taught him the value of hard work and doing the right thing. He earned an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering from the Univer-

sity of Arkansas prior to earning his MBA in 1973. Upon leaving school, he was hired as a loan officer at Worthen Bank in Little Rock. A few years later, Rutledge took a gamble in purchasing First Security Bank, which at the time had only three branches and \$46 million in assets. Under his leadership, the small Searcy, AR, bank grew into a \$5.9 billion dollar holding company with over 77 locations across 17 counties and 34 communities, with more than 1,000 employees across the State.

Rutledge has always given back to the Natural State. He has been an active member of Searcy's First United Methodist Church since 1977 and also serves on the Searcy Water Board. Rutledge has also served as a member of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, chairman of the selection committee of the Arkansas Business Hall of Fame, and chairman of the Arkansas Bankers Association. Some of the many accolades he has received over his career include the University of Arkansas 2000 Volunteer of the Year, 2012 University of Arkansas Distinguished Alumni Award, and 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Walton College of Business.

Gerald B. Alley was born in Pine Bluff, AR. As the son of a businessowner, he saw firsthand the hard work and commitment required to produce a thriving business that maximizes a person's ability to give back to their community. After finishing his education and working for his father, Alley enrolled at the University of Arkansas at the age of 16, majoring in finance. After graduating from the University of Arkansas, he continued his education at Southern Methodist University, where he earned his MBA.

Along with the help of his brother, Troy, Jr., he started Con-Real. Under his leadership, Con-Real built the largest parking garage in Texas. Additionally, the company helped build schools, stores, and other facilities that provided entertainment and essential services to the community. As Alley gained more experience as a business leader, he expanded Con-Real's services and launched another firm focused on medical construction which represented the largest medical system in the U.S. Today, Con-Real offers a multitude of services ranging from real estate to technology and innovation while consistently promoting minority firms.

Aside from his business ventures, Alley serves on the executive advisory board at the Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas. Additionally, he is on the advisory board at the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University and is also a member of the board of trustees at the school. After years of business and philanthropic success, he has proven to be a role model for anybody who values dedication, hard work and perseverance.

Charles Nabholz was born near Squirrel Hill, AR. Hailing from a farming

family, he was instilled with a strong work ethic that served him well. Though the family business began in 1949, he began his career with Nabholz Construction after graduating from Conway's St. Joseph High School in 1954.

He began his career with the company as a laborer. Eventually, Nabholz founded and managed Con-Ark builders, a company that would later merge with Nabholz Construction. After a brief stint out of the State, he returned to serve as Governor Frank White's director of State Building Services. He continued to serve as a valuable asset outside of the State government, helping to create Nabholz Properties and serving as chairman of the board for the Nabholz Group in 2000. In 2014, he was named chairman emeritus of Nabholz Group.

Charles Nabholz is an extremely involved member of his community. Not only is he a member of the several Arkansas trade associations, but he actively participates in or has previously contributed his time to several groups such as the Conway Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Conway Chamber of Commerce, and the Arkansas Research Alliance. Among the many honors he has received are an award for Leadership in Free Enterprise and the Distinguished Citizen Award.

I congratulate each of these honorees for their valuable contributions to Arkansas and the industries they represent. Our State is certainly better off because of the work each has done to advance their own careers, as well as the companies they have led. This honor is a fitting way to acknowledge them and memorialize their legacies in the Natural State's business community.●

TRIBUTE TO JIM BYRUM

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Byrum's term of service as president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association, as well as his contributions to Michigan's agriculture industry as a whole.

Jim was born and raised in Onondaga, MI, the fourth generation of his family to live on the family farm. He maintained his passion for agriculture by spending his career advocating for individuals in the industry and the industry itself, first as the executive director of the Michigan Bean Commission, then as the State executive director of the Michigan Farm Service Agency, and finally as the president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association.

Founded in 1903, the Michigan Agri-Business Association supports Michigan agriculture through State and national education, promotion, and advocacy. During his 24 years as president, Mr. Byrum has guided the association and its members through expansive changes in environmental awareness, agricultural genetics, and economic factors. With his past experience and in