

and reprimanded multiple doctors in response to their decisions to warn other Chinese citizens of the danger posed by that new disease;

Whereas, on January 1, 2020, the Wuhan Public Security Bureau questioned 8 Chinese doctors who had posted information about COVID-19 on WeChat;

Whereas, on January 1, the Hubei provincial health commission ordered laboratories to stop testing for COVID-19 and destroy samples of the same;

Whereas, on January 2, the Wuhan Institute of Virology mapped the genome of COVID-19 in order to inform development of public health interventions and medical treatments for COVID-19, but the Government of the People's Republic of China withheld genetic information on COVID-19 until January 9;

Whereas, on January 11, the Wuhan municipal health commission insisted that there were no new cases of infection by COVID-19;

Whereas, on January 13, the first COVID-19 case outside of the People's Republic of China was announced in Thailand;

Whereas, on January 14, the World Health Organization announced that the Government of the People's Republic of China had seen "no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the novel coronavirus";

Whereas, on January 23, the Government of the People's Republic of China began to implement quarantine measures to stem the spread of COVID-19 at the same time as the disease had already begun to proliferate throughout the world;

Whereas, on March 11, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, with 118,000 persons infected and 4,291 dead in 114 different countries at the time of the announcement;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has argued recently that COVID-19 did not originate in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China has alleged that the United States Army may have delivered COVID-19 to the city of Wuhan in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China has said, "China's endeavor to combating [sic] the epidemic has bought time for [international] preparedness"; and

Whereas a University of Southampton study found that earlier intervention by the Government of the People's Republic of China could have "significantly" limited the geographic spread of COVID-19: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the decision by the Government of the People's Republic of China to hide the emergence and spread of COVID-19 within its borders during the initial weeks of the outbreak;

(2) assesses that the decision by the Government of the People's Republic of China to hide the emergence and spread of COVID-19 during that period almost certainly contributed to the rapid spread of that disease throughout the Indo-Pacific region, Europe, and the rest of the world;

(3) finds that the Government of the People's Republic of China should be held accountable for the impact, of its decision to hide the emergence and spread of COVID-19, on the lives and livelihoods of the people of the United States and other nations;

(4) calls for an international investigation led by public health officials from the United States and other affected nations to determine how the handling by the Government of the People's Republic of China of the COVID-19 outbreak prior to March 11, 2020, contrib-

uted to the emergence of the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

(5) calls on the international community to—

(A) quantify the harm caused, by the handling of the COVID-19 outbreak by the Government of the People's Republic of China, to the health and economic well-being of the people of the United States and other nations; and

(B) design a mechanism for delivering compensation from the Government of the People's Republic of China to all affected nations for the harm caused by its decision to hide the emergence and spread of COVID-19 during the initial weeks of the outbreak.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—EX-
PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE THAT THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUB-
LIC OF CHINA MADE MULTIPLE
SERIOUS MISTAKES IN THE
EARLY STAGES OF THE COVID-19
OUTBREAK THAT HEIGHTENED
THE SEVERITY AND SPREAD OF
THE ONGOING COVID-19 PAN-
DEMIC, INCLUDING THE INTEN-
TIONAL SPREAD OF MISIN-
FORMATION TO DOWNPLAY THE
RISKS OF COVID-19, A REFUSAL
TO COOPERATE WITH INTER-
NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORI-
TIES, INTERNAL CENSORSHIP OF
DOCTORS AND JOURNALISTS,
AND A MALICIOUS DISREGARD
FOR THE HEALTH OF ETHNIC MI-
NORITIES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 553

Whereas records of the Government of the People's Republic of China suggest that the first human became infected with COVID-19 on November 17, 2019, in the Hubei Province of China;

Whereas, on December 27, 2019, Zhang Jixian, a doctor from the Hubei Provincial Hospital of Chinese and Western Medicine, alerted health authorities in China that several individuals exhibiting mysterious, flu-like symptoms, were infected with a novel strain of coronavirus;

Whereas Dr. Yu Wenbin and a team of researchers from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden reported that the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market greatly contributed to the spread of COVID-19 throughout the city of Wuhan;

Whereas, after being informed of cases of a dangerous new strain of coronavirus concentrated around the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, the Government of the People's Republic of China waited 5 days to shut down the market;

Whereas Zhou Xianwang, the mayor of Wuhan, stated that 5,000,000 of the 14,000,000 residents of Wuhan left Wuhan before the Government of the People's Republic of China imposed a lockdown;

Whereas, on December 30, 2019, Ai Fen, the director of the emergency department of Wuhan Central Hospital, shared a diagnostic report on the then unknown COVID-19 virus with a group of doctors through the social media application WeChat;

Whereas, on December 30, 2019, Dr. Li Wenliang, warned his medical school classmates of an outbreak of an unknown SARS-like virus through WeChat;

Whereas, on December 31, 2019, Wuhan Central Hospital authorities formally reprimanded Ai Fen for "spreading rumors" about the virus;

Whereas, on January 1, 2020, an official at the Hubei Provincial Health Commission ordered at least 1 private genomics testing company to cease testing samples of a SARS-like virus from Wuhan and to destroy all existing samples of the virus;

Whereas, on January 3, 2020, the Public Security Bureau of Wuhan detained, questioned, and forced Dr. Li Wenliang and 7 other doctors to sign a letter confessing that Wenliang had made "false comments" that "severely disturbed the social order";

Whereas, on January 3, 2020, the leading public health authority in China, the National Health Commission, directed all research institutions in China to cease publicly publishing any information related to a then unknown SARS-like virus and ordered them to destroy existing samples of the virus or transfer them to approved testing sites;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention first asked permission to study COVID-19 in China on January 6, 2020, but was barred by the Government of the People's Republic of China from entering the country until mid-February;

Whereas authorities of the Government of the People's Republic of China first publicly confirmed the existence of COVID-19 on January 9, 2020, 14 days after the presence of a novel strain of coronavirus was internally confirmed;

Whereas the National Health Commission of China publicly denied that COVID-19 was transmissible through person-to-person contact until January 15, 2020, despite having uncovered contrary evidence in late December and having been alerted of the transmissibility of COVID-19 on January 1, 2020;

Whereas, on January 18, 2020, more than 10,000 families attended the annual Lunar New Year Banquet of Wuhan, which was organized and sponsored by the Wuhan city government;

Whereas the People's Daily, the largest newspaper in China, first reported on the coronavirus on January 21, 2020, nearly a month after the virus was internally confirmed;

Whereas, on February 7, 2020, 1 month after checking into Wuhan Central Hospital, Dr. Li Wenliang died of a severe case of COVID-19;

Whereas the COVID-19 outbreak has disproportionately harmed the persecuted Uyghur Muslim minority of China as a result of actions taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China detained more than 1,000,000 Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in "re-education camps", where crowded and unsanitary conditions make the camps hotspots for viral disease and leave prisoners at an elevated risk of contracting COVID-19;

Whereas, as reported by the Uyghur Human Rights Project, and corroborated by video evidence and Radio Free Asia, an unannounced and strictly enforced quarantine of millions of residents of the predominantly Uyghur Muslim Xinjiang Province of China around January 24, 2020, resulted in mass starvation and shortages of basic medical supplies;

Whereas, on February 25, 2020, Xinhua News Service reported that the Government of the People's Republic of China had "relocated" 30,000 Uyghur laborers to temporarily shuttered factories in the Hotan prefecture, exposing them to health risks that the Government of the People's Republic of China determined were unacceptable for the ethnically Han majority;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the premier infectious disease research institution in the world, was well situated at the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak to both assist the response of the people and Government of the People's Republic of China and prepare the people and Government of the United States to handle the virus in the case of international spread;

Whereas the National Health Commission of China failed to include individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 but remained asymptomatic in its daily tally of confirmed COVID-19 cases, hampering the ability of public health authorities in the United States to accurately account for the rate of spread and the health risks of the virus;

Whereas a Foreign Ministry Spokesman of the Government of the People's Republic of China, Zhao Lijian, claimed that COVID-19 originated in the United States and that the United States Army brought COVID-19 to Wuhan to wage biological warfare on China;

Whereas other officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China, including scientists working on the COVID-19 response of China, the Ambassador to South Africa of China, and the Ambassador to Australia of China, have claimed that there is no evidence that COVID-19 originated in China;

Whereas, on March 4, 2020, Xinhua News Agency, an official mouthpiece of the Government of the People's Republic of China, published an article threatening to cut off medical supply exports to the United States and "plunge [the United States] into the mighty sea of coronavirus";

Whereas, on March 17, 2020, the Government of the People's Republic of China expelled nationals of the United States working at the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and the New York Times, reducing the spread of reliable information on the COVID-19 outbreak in China; and

Whereas a study by the University of Southampton found that if the Government of the People's Republic of China had taken action 3 weeks earlier, the spread of COVID-19 would be reduced by 95 percent globally: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) publicly state that there is no evidence that COVID-19 originated anywhere else but China;

(B) denounce the baseless conspiracy that the United States Army placed COVID-19 in Wuhan;

(C) revoke the expulsion of journalists of the United States;

(D) end the detainment of Uyghur Muslims and other persecuted ethnic minorities; and

(E) end all forced labor programs;

(2) condemns—

(A) the censorship of the Government of the People's Republic of China of doctors and journalists during the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak, particularly the treatment of the deceased Dr. Li Wenliang;

(B) the refusal of the Government of the People's Republic of China to allow scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assist its response to COVID-19 for more than a month after co-operation was offered, needlessly endangering the lives of its own citizens and hampering the early attempts of the United States to learn more about COVID-19; and

(C) the duplicitous denial of the National Health Commission of China of the person-to-person transmissibility of COVID-19; and

(3) calls for the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to retract highly misleading statements of support for the response of the Government of the People's Republic of China to COVID-19, especially his

praise for the "commitment from top leadership [of the Government of the People's Republic of China], and the transparency they have demonstrated".

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1574. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1575. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 748, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1576. Mr. SASSE (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 748, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1574. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —BUTCH LEWIS ACT OF 2020

SEC. ____ 1. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Butch Lewis Act of 2020".

SEC. ____ 2. PENSION REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION; ESTABLISHMENT; POWERS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Department of the Treasury an agency to be known as the "Pension Rehabilitation Administration".

(b) **DIRECTOR.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.**—There shall be at the head of the Pension Rehabilitation Administration a Director, who shall be appointed by the President.

(2) **TERM.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term of office of the Director shall be 5 years.

(B) **SERVICE UNTIL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR.**—An individual serving as Director at the expiration of a term may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

(3) **POWERS.**—

(A) **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES.**—The Director may appoint Deputy Directors, officers, and employees, including attorneys, in accordance with chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) **CONTRACTING.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may contract for financial and administrative services (including those related to budget and accounting, financial reporting, personnel, and procurement) with the General Services Administration, or such other Federal agency as the Director determines appropriate, for which payment shall be made in advance, or by reimbursement, from funds of the Pension Rehabilitation Administration in such amounts as may be agreed upon by the Director and the head of the Federal agency providing the services.

(ii) **SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.**—Contract authority under clause (i) shall be effective for any fiscal year only to the extent that appropriations are available for that purpose.

(c) **TRANSFER OF FUNDS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury may transfer for any fiscal

year, from unobligated amounts appropriated to the Department of the Treasury, to the Pension Rehabilitation Administration such sums as may be reasonably necessary for the administrative and operating expenses of the Pension Rehabilitation Administration.

SEC. ____ 3. PENSION REHABILITATION TRUST FUND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter A of chapter 98 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 9512. PENSION REHABILITATION TRUST FUND.

"(a) **CREATION OF TRUST FUND.**—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the 'Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund' (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Fund'), consisting of such amounts as may be appropriated or credited to the Fund as provided in this section and section 9602(b).

"(b) **TRANSFERS TO FUND.**—

"(1) **AMOUNTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO TREASURY BONDS.**—There shall be credited to the Fund the amounts transferred under the Butch Lewis Act of 2020.

"(2) **LOAN INTEREST AND PRINCIPAL.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the Pension Rehabilitation Administration established under the Butch Lewis Act of 2020 shall deposit in the Fund any amounts received from a plan as payment of interest or principal on a loan under such Act.

"(B) **INTEREST.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'interest' includes points and other similar amounts.

"(3) **TRANSFERS FROM SECRETARY.**—The Director of the Pension Rehabilitation Administration shall deposit in the Fund any amounts received from the Secretary for administrative and operating expenses pursuant to such Act.

"(4) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**—Amounts credited to or deposited in the Fund shall remain available until expended.

"(c) **EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.**—Amounts in the Fund are available without further appropriation to the Pension Rehabilitation Administration—

"(1) for the purpose of making the loans described in the Butch Lewis Act of 2020,

"(2) for the payment of principal and interest on obligations issued under such Act, and

"(3) for administrative and operating expenses of such Administration."

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 98 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 9512. Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund."

SEC. ____ 4. LOAN PROGRAM FOR MULTIEMPLOYER DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS.

(a) **LOAN AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Pension Rehabilitation Administration established under this Act is authorized—

(A) to make loans to multiemployer plans (as defined in section 414(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) which are defined benefit plans (as defined in section 414(j) of such Code) and which—

(i) are in critical and declining status (within the meaning of section 432(b)(6) of such Code and section 305(b)(6) of such Act) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, or with respect to which a suspension of benefits has been approved under section 432(e)(9) of such Code and section 305(e)(9) of such Act as of such date;

(ii) as of such date of enactment, are in critical status (within the meaning of section 432(b)(2) of such Code and section