

(2) as journalists around the world are being censored and imprisoned for their reporting on the virus;

Whereas in China, Chen Qiushi was disappeared after reporting on the Government of the People's Republic of China's COVID-19 response in February 2020, Xu Zhiyong was reportedly detained in February 2020 during a COVID-19 prevention check after criticizing Chinese authorities, and reporters from The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Voice of America, and Time were expelled in March 2020;

Whereas authorities in numerous countries, including Russia, Iran, Cuba, Burma (Myanmar), and Venezuela have—

- (1) restricted journalist movement;
- (2) hindered access to information;
- (3) removed content; and

(4) threatened, harassed, attacked, and arrested journalists for their reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, freedom of the press remained under considerable pressure throughout the world;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders found that, as of April 20, 2020, at least 229 journalists, 116 citizen journalists, and 14 media assistants were imprisoned worldwide;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 25 journalists were killed around the world for their work in 2019;

Whereas Freedom House's publication "Freedom in the World 2020" noted that global freedom of expression has declined every year for the past 14 years;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the world's most censored countries include Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Belarus, and Cuba;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has waged a campaign of judicial harassment against a variety of independent press outlets, including the news website *Rappler* and its editor, Maria Ressa, who has been arrested twice;

Whereas in Russia, Crimean Tatar freelance journalist Nariman Memedeminov was sentenced to 30 months in prison for reporting on human rights violations by Russian authorities in Crimea;

Whereas in Cuba, the Committee to Protect Journalists and Amnesty International have written to the Cuban authorities to request the immediate release of journalist Roberto Quiñones, who has been imprisoned since September 2019;

Whereas in Venezuela, freelance journalist Darvinson Rojas has been detained since March 21, 2020, for reporting on presumed COVID-19 cases that were unacknowledged by the Government of Venezuela;

Whereas in Mexico, *Quinto Poder de Veracruz* founder María Elena Ferral, *El Gráfico* reporter Jorge Celestino Ruiz Vázquez, and journalists Nevith Condes Jaramilla, Rogelio Barragán Pérez, and Norma Sarabia were all murdered between June 2019 and March 2020;

Whereas in Niger, independent journalist Kaka Touda Mamane Goni was arrested on March 5, 2020, and faces up to 3 years in prison for publishing news reports on social media about potential COVID-19 cases;

Whereas in Burundi, Iwacu journalists Christine Kamikazi, Agnès Ndirubusa, Egide Harerimana, and Térence Mpozenzi were convicted on charges of attempting to undermine state security and sentenced to 2½ years in prison;

Whereas in Tanzania, journalist Azory Gwanda has been missing since November 2017;

Whereas Turkey remains 1 of the top jailers of independent journalists around the

world, and the Government of Turkey closed down more than 100 news outlets during 2019;

Whereas in Egypt, prominent blogger and activist Alaa Abdelfattah was rearrested in September 2019, human rights activist and journalist Esraa Abdel Fattah was rearrested in October 2019, and *Guardian* reporter Ruth Michaelson's press credentials were withdrawn for questioning official COVID-19 figures on March 16, 2020;

Whereas American journalist Austin Tice has been detained in Syria since August 14, 2012;

Whereas female journalists and writers in Saudi Arabia face harsh personal consequences for their work, and Zana Al-Shari of the daily *Al-Riyadh*, Maha al-Rafidi al-Qahtani of the daily *Al-Watan*, and recipients of the 2019 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award Nouf Abdulaziz, Loujain Al-Hathloul, and Eman Al-Nafjan remain missing, imprisoned, or on trial due to their writing and outspoken women's rights advocacy;

Whereas the Senate has concluded that Washington Post journalist and United States resident Jamal Khashoggi was murdered by a team of Saudi operatives at the behest of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Radio, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and the Middle East Broadcast Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas freedom of the press is a key element of public transparency, civil society participation, socioeconomic development, and democratic governance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies, democratic governance, and contributes to an informed civil society, and government accountability;

(B) helps expose corruption, and enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(C) disseminates information essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) condemns threats to freedom of the press and free expression around the world; and

(3) in remembrance of journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their vital work—

(A) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/163 (2013) by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(B) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(C) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all imprisoned journalists;

(D) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(E) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State—

(i) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to freedom of the press, on the basis of the protections afforded the American people

under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(ii) to improve the rapid identification, publication, and response by the United States Government to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(iii) to urge foreign governments to protect the free flow of information and to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(iv) to promote the respect and protection of freedom of the press around the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE HONG KONG NATIONAL SECURITY LAW PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WOULD VIOLATE THE OBLIGATIONS OF THAT GOVERNMENT UNDER THE 1984 SINO-BRITISH JOINT DECLARATION AND THE HONG KONG BASIC LAW AND CALLING UPON ALL FREE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 596

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has proposed a new national security law for Hong Kong that would ban secession, subversion of state power, and foreign interference, as defined by the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, if the new national security law is passed, the Government of the People's Republic of China is expected to use this law to justify and facilitate an expanded crackdown against peaceful protests and other forms of nonviolent protest by the people of Hong Kong;

Whereas this proposed law constitutes a significant escalation in the campaign by the Government of the People's Republic of China and its proxies in Hong Kong to erase the basic liberties and human rights promised to the people of Hong Kong under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law;

Whereas the announcement by the Government of the People's Republic of China of its intent to pass this new national security law reflects that government's fundamental opposition not only to the basic rights and liberties of free persons championed by the people of Hong Kong and the United States, but also to upholding its obligations under international law; and

Whereas the efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to silence peaceful protest in Hong Kong are part and parcel of a broader hegemonic vision that would see the Government of the People's Republic of China impose its will upon all free people of Asia and beyond: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Hong Kong national security law proposed by the Government of the People's Republic of China would violate the legal obligations of that government under—

(A) the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which guarantees for 50 years the protection of the basic rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, including those of speech, press, assembly, association, travel, movement, correspondence, and strike; and

(B) the Hong Kong Basic Law, which reserves the authority for enacting laws prohibiting treason, secession, sedition, subversion, and foreign interference to the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; and

(2) the United States Government should use all diplomatic means available, including targeted sanctions, to—

(A) dissuade the Government of the People's Republic of China from passing the proposed Hong Kong national security law;

(B) compel the Government of the People's Republic of China to rescind the proposed Hong Kong national security law, if it is passed; and

(C) rally all free nations to stand with the people of Hong Kong against increasingly severe violations by the Government of the People's Republic of China of the rights and liberties guaranteed to them under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Hong Kong Basic Law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—DESIGNATING MAY 2020 AS “OLDER AMERICANS MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BURR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 597

Whereas President John F. Kennedy first designated May as “Senior Citizens Month” in 1963;

Whereas, in 1963, only approximately 17,778,000 individuals living in the United States were 65 years of age or older, approximately 1% of those individuals lived in poverty, and few programs existed to meet the needs of older individuals in the United States;

Whereas, in 2019, there were more than 55,030,278 individuals who were 65 years of age or older in the United States, and those individuals accounted for 16.7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas approximately 10,000 individuals in the United States turn 65 years of age each day;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 9,056,000 veterans of the Armed Forces were 65 years of age or older;

Whereas older individuals in the United States rely on Federal programs, such as programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the Medicaid program under title XIX of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), for financial security and high-quality affordable health care;

Whereas the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) provides—

(1) supportive services to help individuals in the United States who are 60 years of age or older maintain maximum independence in the homes and communities of those individuals; and

(2) funding for programs, including nutrition services, transportation, and care management, to assist more than 10,798,199 older individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, compared to older individuals in the United States in past generations, older individuals in the United States in 2020 are working longer, living longer, and enjoying healthier, more active, and more independent lifestyles;

Whereas, in 2019, an estimated 6,422,000 individuals in the United States who were 65 years of age or older continued to work as full-time, year-round employees;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play an important role in society by continuing to contribute their experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments;

Whereas older individuals in the United States play vital roles in their communities and remain involved in volunteer work, the arts, cultural activities, and activities relating to mentorship and civic engagement; and

Whereas a society that recognizes the success of older individuals and continues to enhance the access of older individuals to quality and affordable health care will—

(1) encourage the ongoing participation and heightened independence of older individuals; and

(2) ensure the continued safety and well-being of older individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2020 as “Older Americans Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to provide opportunities for older individuals to continue to flourish by—

(A) emphasizing the importance and leadership of older individuals through public recognition of the ongoing achievements of older individuals;

(B) presenting opportunities for older individuals to share their wisdom, experience, and skills with younger generations; and

(C) recognizing older individuals as valuable assets in strengthening communities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM, AND ENCOURAGING CONGRESS TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. ENZI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 598

Whereas National Foster Care Month was established more than 30 years ago to—

(1) bring foster care issues to the forefront; (2) highlight the importance of permanency for every child; and

(3) recognize the essential role that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States;

Whereas all children deserve a safe, loving, and permanent home;

Whereas the primary goal of the foster care system is to ensure the safety and well-

being of children while working to provide a safe, loving, and permanent home for each child;

Whereas there are approximately 437,000 children living in foster care;

Whereas there were approximately 263,000 youth that entered the foster care system in 2018, while more than 71,000 youth were eligible and awaiting adoption at the end of 2018;

Whereas the number of children living in foster care has increased dramatically in recent years;

Whereas more than 94,000 children entered foster care in 2018 due to parental drug abuse;

Whereas children of color are more likely to stay in the foster care system for longer periods of time and are less likely to be re-united with their biological families;

Whereas foster parents—

(1) are the front-line caregivers for children who cannot safely remain with their biological parents;

(2) provide physical care, emotional support, and education advocacy; and

(3) are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas, compared to children in foster care who are placed with nonrelatives, children in foster care who are placed with relatives have more stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that are forced to remain in the foster care system;

Whereas almost 18,000 youth “aged out” of foster care in 2018 without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 19 months;

Whereas 34 percent of children in foster care experience more than 2 placements while in foster care, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability, with 1 study showing that 75 percent of foster youth experienced an unscheduled school change during a school year, compared to 21 percent of youth not in foster care;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas 30 percent of children in foster care are taking at least 1 antipsychotic medication, and 34 percent of those children are not receiving adequate treatment planning or medication monitoring;

Whereas, due to heavy caseloads and limited resources, the average turnover rate for child welfare workers is 30 percent;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and postpermanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are