

The bill ensures that we have a combat-credible forward posture, and it helps us develop and field the joint capabilities needed to take on the conflicts envisioned by this NDS report.

We push back on China's and Russia's attempts to expand their influence by building new alliances and partnerships and strengthening existing ones. They are busy. They are out there.

We protect against intrusion from China and Russia in space and beyond. That is what we have in the bill. That is what we are envisioning we will be able to do.

We safeguard proprietary technology and intellectual property from being infiltrated by the Government of China.

We also reduce our reliance on foreign countries like China as a source for a variety of materials and technologies, including some of the microelectronics and rare earth minerals, but also medical devices.

Last but not least, we accelerate investment in research and development into technology that would help us catch up with China and Russia—hypersonic weapons, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and more.

We are not leading in all areas, as most people in America think we are, but we are making such great progress. Our Defense authorization bill last year put us way ahead of where we were before, and this bill does the same thing. So the bill sends a message—a strong message—to China and Russia and anyone else who would try it: We know what you are up to. We know how to stop you. You simply can't win against us.

So I encourage my colleagues, first of all, to get all of their amendments in. We are trying to get our amendments in by Friday. If we can do that, we will probably get this thing done possibly even by a week from today.

So we have been working on it all year long, and this is one of the bills that we work on all year long, and we have a whole team working, including Liz King and John Bonsell. John Bonsell is the Republican staff director, and Liz is with the Democratic staff group, working with my partner in this. They have worked very well together, and we should have this bill done and ready to take out.

Of course, let's keep in mind what we want to accomplish. We want to put our country ahead of China and Russia and get us out of this problem area that we have—an area where our allies believe they are preparing for World War III. So that is what the bill is all about. Hopefully, we will get this thing done and have the necessary ingredients in there. This should be the year that we actually go ahead of China and Russia. We want to make it happen, and this is the only way to do it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS OF BLACK MEN AND BOYS ACT

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2163 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2163) to establish the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, to study and make recommendations to address social problems affecting Black men and boys, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Lankford amendment at the desk be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1809) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To require an equal number of Republicans and Democrats to serve on the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys)

At the end of section 2, add the following:

(c) MEMBERSHIP BY POLITICAL PARTY.—If after the Commission is appointed there is a partisan imbalance of Commission members, the congressional leaders of the political party with fewer members on the Commission shall jointly name additional members to create partisan parity on the Commission.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. HAWLEY. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2163), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 2163

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act".

#### SEC. 2. COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the Commission") is established within the United States Commission on Civil Rights Office of the Staff Director.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall consist of 19 members appointed as follows:

(1) The Senate majority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(2) The Senate minority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(3) The House of Representatives majority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(4) The House of Representatives minority leader shall appoint one member who is not employed by the Federal Government and is an expert on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(5) The Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus shall be a member of the Commission, as well as 5 additional Members of the Congressional Black Caucus who shall be individuals that either sit on the following committees of relevant jurisdiction or are experts on issues affecting Black men and boys in the United States, including—

- (A) education;
- (B) justice and Civil Rights;
- (C) healthcare;
- (D) labor and employment; and
- (E) housing.

(6) The Staff Director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights shall appoint one member from within the staff of the United States Commission on Civil Rights who is an expert in issues relating to Black men and boys.

(7) The Chair of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall appoint one member from within the staff of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission who is an expert in equal employment issues impacting Black men.

(8) The Secretary of Education shall appoint one member from within the Department of Education who is an expert in urban education.

(9) The Attorney General shall appoint one member from within the Department of Justice who is an expert in racial disparities within the criminal justice system.

(10) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall appoint one member from within the Department of Health and Human Services who is an expert in health issues facing Black men.

(11) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall appoint one member from within the Department of Housing and Urban Development who is an expert in housing and development in urban communities.

(12) The Secretary of Labor shall appoint one member from within the Department of Labor who is an expert in labor issues impacting Black men.

(13) The President of the United States shall appoint 2 members who are not employed by the Federal Government and are experts on issues affecting Black men and boys in America.

(c) MEMBERSHIP BY POLITICAL PARTY.—If after the Commission is appointed there is a partisan imbalance of Commission members, the congressional leaders of the political party with fewer members on the Commission shall jointly name additional members to create partisan parity on the Commission.

#### SEC. 3. OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL.

(a) TIMING OF INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Each initial appointment to the Commission shall be made no later than 90 days after the Commission is established. If any appointing authorities fail to appoint a member to the Commission, their appointment shall be

made by the Staff Director of the Commission on Civil Rights.

(b) **TERMS.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the term of a member of the Commission shall be 4 years. For the purpose of providing staggered terms, the first term of those members initially appointed under paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 2 shall be appointed to 2-year terms with all other terms lasting 4 years. Members are eligible for consecutive reappointment.

(c) **REMOVAL.**—A member of the Commission may be removed from the Commission at any time by the appointing authority should the member fail to meet Commission responsibilities. Once the seat becomes vacant, the appointing authority is responsible for filling the vacancy in the Commission before the next meeting.

(d) **VACANCIES.**—The appointing authority of a member of the Commission shall either reappoint that member at the end of that member's term or appoint another person meeting the qualifications for that appointment. In the event of a vacancy arising during a term, the appointing authority shall, before the next meeting of the Commission, appoint a replacement to finish that term.

#### SEC. 4. LEADERSHIP ELECTION.

At the first meeting of the Commission each year, the members shall elect a Chair and a Secretary. A vacancy in the Chair or Secretary shall be filled by vote of the remaining members. The Chair and Secretary are eligible for consecutive reappointment.

#### SEC. 5. COMMISSION DUTIES AND POWERS.

(a) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall conduct a systematic study of the conditions affecting Black men and boys, including homicide rates, arrest and incarceration rates, poverty, violence, fatherhood, mentorship, drug abuse, death rates, disparate income and wealth levels, school performance in all grade levels including post-secondary education and college, and health issues.

(2) **TRENDS.**—The Commission shall document trends regarding the topics described in paragraph (1) and report on the community impacts of relevant government programs within the scope of such topics.

(b) **PROPOSAL OF MEASURES.**—The Commission shall propose measures to alleviate and remedy the underlying causes of the conditions described in subsection (a), which may include recommendations of changes to the law, recommendations for how to implement related policies, and recommendations for how to create, develop, or improve upon government programs.

(c) **SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS.**—The Commission shall accept suggestions or comments pertinent to the applicable issues from members of Congress, governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and private citizens.

(d) **STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Office of the Staff Director of the United States Commission on Civil Rights shall provide staff and administrative support to the Commission. All entities of the United States Government shall provide information that is otherwise a public record at the request of the Commission.

#### SEC. 6. COMMISSION MEETING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **FIRST MEETING.**—The first meeting of the Commission shall take place no later than 30 days after the initial members are all appointed. Meetings shall be focused on significant issues impacting Black men and boys, for the purpose of initiating research ideas and delegating research tasks to Commission members to initiate the first annual report described in section 7.

(b) **QUARTERLY MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet quarterly. In addition to all

quarterly meetings, the Commission shall meet at other times at the call of the Chair or as determined by a majority of Commission members.

(c) **QUORUM; RULE FOR VOTING ON FINAL ACTIONS.**—A majority of the members of the Commission constitute a quorum, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is required for final action.

(d) **EXPECTATIONS FOR ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS.**—Members are expected to attend all Commission meetings. In the case of an absence, members are expected to report to the Chair prior to the meeting and allowance may be made for an absent member to participate remotely. Members will still be responsible for fulfilling prior commitments, regardless of attendance status. If a member is absent twice in a given year, he or she will be reviewed by the Chair and appointing authority and further action will be considered, including removal and replacement on the Commission.

(e) **MINUTES.**—Minutes shall be taken at each meeting by the Secretary, or in that individual's absence, the Chair shall select another Commission member to take minutes during that absence. The Commission shall make its minutes publicly available and accessible not later than one week after each meeting.

#### SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT GUIDELINES.

The Commission shall make an annual report, beginning the year of the first Commission meeting. The report shall address the current conditions affecting Black men and boys and make recommendations to address these issues. The report shall be submitted to the President, the Congress, members of the President's Cabinet, and the chairs of the appropriate committees of jurisdiction. The Commission shall make the report publicly available online on a centralized Federal website.

#### SEC. 8. COMMISSION COMPENSATION.

Members of the Commission shall serve on the Commission without compensation.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### ENCOURAGING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REMAIN COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION TO MITIGATE AND PREVENT THE FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 579.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 579) encouraging the international community to remain com-

mitted to collaboration and coordination to mitigate and prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and urging renewed United States leadership and participation in any global efforts on therapeutics and vaccine development and delivery to address COVID-19 and prevent further deaths, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lee-Durbin substitute amendment to the resolution be considered and agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Lee-Durbin amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; that the Lee-Durbin amendment to the title be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1810), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic leadership role of the United States in stemming global health crises in the past;

(2) commends the historic achievements of the international community to address global public health threats, such as the eradication of smallpox and dramatic progress in reducing cases of polio;

(3) encourages the international community to remain committed to collaboration and coordination to mitigate and prevent the further spread of COVID-19;

(4) commends the promising research and development underway to develop COVID-19 diagnostics, therapies, and vaccines within the United States and with support from the Federal government, public-private partnerships, and commercial partners;

(5) acknowledges the vast international research enterprise and collaboration underway to study an expansive range of drug and vaccine candidates;

(6) urges renewed United States leadership and participation in global efforts on therapeutics and vaccine development and delivery to address COVID-19 and prevent further American deaths; and

(7) calls on the United States Government to strengthen collaboration with key partners at the forefront of responding to COVID-19.

The resolution (S. Res. 579), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1811) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas there is a rich history of coordinated global health collaboration and coordination, dating back to 1851, to strategically and effectively combat deadly diseases of the time, such as the spread of plague;

Whereas the United States has long been an active and critical leader in such global public health efforts, providing financial and technical support to multilateral institutions, foreign governments, and nongovernmental organizations;

Whereas international collaboration has led to a number of historic global health achievements, including the eradication of