

ensure the continued effectiveness of the Act in protecting the voting rights of all citizens of the United States;

(3) commits itself to fully restoring section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and modernizing and strengthening the Voting Rights Act of 1965 through further legislative efforts; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 672—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS NATIONAL DEMOCRACY MONTH AS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE FREE AND STABLE WORLD**

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 672

Whereas, 2,000 years after the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for democracy, the founders of the United States built an even greater system of government, a democratic republic, propelling the United States to become the most advanced nation in human history;

Whereas the model of government of the United States has been reproduced around the world;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, more than 1 in 3 people in the world do not live in states considered free;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, with the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, including the 14th and 15th Amendments, and the 19th Amendment, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;

Whereas the perpetuation of the ideals of democracy does not happen on its own and can be stalled or reversed;

Whereas surveys show that citizens of the United States are losing faith in the democratic system;

Whereas former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said, "The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens.";

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said, "Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to untiring effort, to continual sacrifice and to the willingness, if necessary, to die in its defense.";

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said, "Democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man.";

Whereas World War II demonstrated the fragility of democracy and the civilized life that accompanies democracy;

Whereas British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed that, "Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time . . .";

Whereas President George Washington said the United States must recognize the immense value of the national Union and work towards preservation of that Union with "jealous anxiety" and wrote that the security of a free Constitution may be accomplished by "teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights";

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Educate and inform the whole mass

of the people . . . They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."; and

Whereas the Government of the United States must teach and educate the people by taking appropriate actions to highlight and emphasize the importance of democratic principles and the essential role of democratic principles in the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as "National Democracy Month";

(2) encourages States and local governments to designate September 2020 as "National Democracy Month";

(3) recognizes the celebration of "National Democracy Month" as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe "National Democracy Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide appreciation for the system of government of the United States; and

(B) demonstrate that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices made by past generations of people of the United States to preserve the freedoms and principles of the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 673—AFFIRMING THAT THE NEW START TREATY EXTENSION WILL COVER NEW DEPLOYED RUSSIAN NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AND SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES TO ENGAGE CHINA THAT ADVANCE THE GOAL OF CONCLUDING AN ARMS CONTROL TREATY OR AGREEMENT**

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 673

Whereas, on March 1, 2018, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation previewed five new Russian nuclear delivery systems in his State of the Nation address;

Whereas two of the new systems, the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, will count under the limits of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (commonly referred to as the "New START Treaty"), as confirmed by Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation;

Whereas an additional pair of new systems, the Poseidon nuclear-powered torpedo and the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile, are not projected to be deployed during the five-year extension of the New START Treaty to 2026, and even if they were deployed, the United States is able to address its concerns about those weapons through the Bilateral Consultative Committee;

Whereas the Russian Federation's fifth new system, the Kinzhal short-range air-launched ballistic missile, is being deployed as a theater-strike weapon on MiG-31 air-

craft, rather than on a heavy bomber, in which case it would be automatically accountable under the New START Treaty;

Whereas the advance timing of the Russian Federation's nuclear modernization cycle may allow it to significantly expand its strategic nuclear arsenal relative to the United States in the event that the New START Treaty expires on February 5, 2021;

Whereas the 2020 Annual Report on the Implementation of the new START Treaty concluded that the Russian Federation was "in compliance with the terms of the New START Treaty";

Whereas the People's Republic of China has never entered into a treaty or agreement with the United States or any other party that places binding limits on its shorter-range, intermediate-, or strategic-range ballistic missiles, verified by National Technical Means and by on-site inspections, as the United States and Russian Federation did through the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the START I and START II Treaties, and the New START Treaty, each of which took multiple years to successfully negotiate;

Whereas the People's Republic of China possesses significantly fewer ICBMs, submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and heavy bombers than the Russian Federation or the United States, and according to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), China's warhead stockpile is in the "the low couple of hundreds", a fraction of the size of the arsenals of the Russian Federation and the United States; and

Whereas the People's Republic of China has repeatedly declined invitations by the United States to enter into trilateral negotiations on an arms control treaty or other agreement regarding its nuclear arsenal: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the President to immediately extend the New START Treaty until 2026;

(2) affirms that, by extending the New START Treaty until 2026, the President of the United States can secure limitations on two new types of Russian Federation strategic weapons beyond those accountable when the Treaty entered into force in 2011 or at any time thereafter;

(3) calls on the Russian Federation to cease the development of hazardous and provocative new weapons systems including the Burevestnik cruise missile, which is powered by a nuclear reactor and may violate the prohibition in numerous treaties and military manuals against causing superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering;

(4) affirms the December 1987 statement by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought";

(5) calls on the President to consider the views of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other United States allies and partners who overwhelmingly back extension of the New START Treaty; and

(6) supports, following the extension of the New START Treaty, a United States initiative to engage China in negotiations towards the eventual conclusion of an arms control treaty or agreement, starting with steps to reduce the risk of strategic miscalculation and the threat of a nuclear exchange, which may include—

(A) a formal invitation to appropriate officials from the People's Republic of China, and to each of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to observe a United States-Russian Federation New START Treaty on-site inspection in 2020 to demonstrate the security benefits of transparency into strategic nuclear forces;

(B) an agreement with the People's Republic of China that allows for advance notifications of ballistic missile launches, through the Hague Code of Conduct or other data exchanges or doctrine discussions related to strategic nuclear forces;

(C) an agreement not to target or interfere in nuclear command, control, and communications (commonly referred to as "NC3") infrastructure; or

(D) any other cooperative measure that benefits United States-China strategic stability.

SENATE RESOLUTION 674—COMMEMORATING JUNE 20, 2020, AS WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 674

Whereas World Refugee Day is a global event to acknowledge the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes due to persecution;

Whereas, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this preamble as "UNHCR") and section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)), as added by section 201 of the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212), a refugee is a person who—

(1) is outside of the country of his or her nationality or habitual residence; and

(2) is unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;

Whereas, according to the UNHCR, at the end of 2019—

(1) there were at least 79,500,000 forcibly displaced people worldwide, which is the worst displacement crisis in recorded history, including—

(A) 29,600,000 refugees;

(B) more than 45,700,000 internally displaced people; and

(C) 4,200,000 asylum seekers;

(2) 1 person out of every 97 people worldwide was a refugee, an asylum seeker, or an internally displaced person;

(3) the number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate had doubled since 2010;

(4) 68 percent of the world's refugees came from only 5 countries (Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Burma);

(5) 73 percent of all refugees were residing in countries adjacent to the countries from which they had fled;

(6) approximately 31,000,000 of the people who had been forcibly displaced and 50 percent of all refugees were children younger than 18 years of age, millions of whom were unable to access basic services, including education;

(7) approximately 11,000,000 people were newly displaced due to recent conflict or persecution, including 8,600,000 internally displaced persons and 2,400,000 refugees and asylum seekers, representing an average of at least 30,000 such people per day;

(8) more than 50 percent of the population of Syria (at least 13,000,000 people) were displaced, either across the international border or within Syria, which represents the largest displacement crisis in the world today;

(9) more than 1,400,000 refugees needed resettlement to a third country (an 80 percent increase since 2011), while only 107,800 refugees were resettled to a total of 26 countries; and

(10) only 317,200 refugees voluntarily returned to their country or place of origin, which represents fewer than 2 percent of the 20,400,000 refugees under UNHCR's mandate;

Whereas millions of refugees around the world are stateless (not recognized as nationals by any state) and therefore require a path to citizenship as part of any solution to their displacement;

Whereas refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school than non-refugee children;

Whereas refugees who are women and girls are often at greater risk of violence, human trafficking, exploitation, and gender-based violence;

Whereas more than 50 percent of refugees reside in urban areas;

Whereas 85 percent of refugees and asylum seekers reside in developing countries, which places enormous additional pressure on the already limited resources of those countries;

Whereas the average length of time refugees remain displaced from their home country ranges between 10 and 26 years;

Whereas while refugee resettlement is a critical solution for refugees, fewer than 10 percent of global resettlement needs have been met and global refugee resettlement opportunities have fallen by 50 percent since 2016;

Whereas the United States resettlement program, which was established 40 years ago—

(1) is a lifesaving solution crucial to global humanitarian efforts;

(2) strengthens global security;

(3) advances United States foreign policy goals;

(4) supports regional host countries; and

(5) assists individuals and families in need;

Whereas the United States annual refugee admissions ceiling fell from 85,000 in fiscal year 2016 to 18,000 in fiscal year 2020, which represents the lowest level in the history of the program;

Whereas, as of June 19, 2020 (9 months into fiscal year 2020), the United States had welcomed only 7,684 refugees into the country, which is fewer than 50 percent of the President's 18,000 refugee admissions ceiling;

Whereas, at this pace, the United States will not meet its fiscal year 2020 refugee admissions goal;

Whereas, for fiscal year 2020, the United States, irrespective of global resettlement needs, designated new thematic and regional allocations for United States refugee admissions that prioritize—

(1) refugees fleeing persecution on account of religious persecution;

(2) Iraqis; and

(3) refugees from Central America;

Whereas refugees are the most vetted travelers to enter the United States and are subject to extensive screening checks that may last between 18 months and 3 years, including in-person interviews, biometric data checks, and multiple interagency reviews;

Whereas refugees—

(1) are major contributors to local economies;

(2) pay an average of \$21,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits; and

(3) revitalize cities and towns by—

(A) offsetting population decline; and

(B) boosting economic growth by opening businesses, paying taxes, and buying homes;

Whereas certain industries and towns rely heavily on refugee workers to support their economic stability, and low rates of arrivals of refugees have had serious impacts on economic growth; and

Whereas, during the COVID-19 pandemic—

(1) refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers, many of whom live in dangerously overcrowded settings and have

inadequate access to basic services like healthcare, water, and sanitation, are especially vulnerable to the spread of the novel coronavirus;

(2) well-intentioned government policies to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus may exacerbate inequalities and disproportionately impact those already suffering from conflict and persecution;

(3) UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration suspended their international refugee resettlement operations for 3 months, which negatively affected at least 10,000 refugees who were already approved for travel to their respective countries of resettlement;

(4) numerous countries have restricted access to asylum, including the United States, which summarily returned more than 40,000 asylum seekers gathered at the southern United States border back to Mexico and only permitted 2 individuals to remain in the United States to request humanitarian protection between March 21 and May 13, 2020; and

(5) many refugees are serving as critical frontline health professionals and essential workers combating the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and other host countries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of millions of refugees, including the education of refugee children and displaced persons who flee war, persecution, or torture in search of peace, hope, and freedom;

(2) recognizes those individuals who have risked their lives working, either individually or for nongovernmental organizations and international agencies, such as UNHCR, to provide lifesaving assistance and protection for people displaced by conflicts around the world;

(3) underscores the importance of the United States refugee resettlement program as a critical tool for the United States Government—

(A) to leverage foreign policy;

(B) to strengthen national and regional security; and

(C) to demonstrate international support of refugees;

(4) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to continue providing robust funding for refugee protection overseas and resettlement in the United States;

(B) to uphold its international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance and protection of the most vulnerable populations;

(C) to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts and prevent new conflicts from beginning;

(D) to ensure that—

(i) the United States refugee resettlement program is equipped to protect and support refugees; and

(ii) the United States provides essential leadership to the international refugee assistance community and to local communities across the United States seeking to welcome refugees and to help them achieve the American dream;

(E) to alleviate the burden placed on frontline refugee host countries, such as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Colombia, and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, which receive the majority of the world's refugees, and provide these countries with humanitarian and development support;

(F) to endorse the Global Compact for Refugees, affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 17, 2018, and join