

Whereas hydrogen and fuel cells can store energy to help enhance the grid and maximize opportunities to deploy renewable energy;

Whereas the United States produces and uses approximately 10,000,000 metric tons of hydrogen per year;

Whereas engineers and safety code and standard professionals have developed consensus-based protocols for safe delivery, handling, and use of hydrogen; and

Whereas the ingenuity of the people of the United States is essential to paving the way for the future use of hydrogen technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 8, 2020, as “National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 721—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 18, 2020, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 721

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including from schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young individuals are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that individuals do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, institutions and individuals that influence youth must make conscientious efforts to help young individuals develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young individuals to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the

responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young individuals in the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of “National Character Counts Week”, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 18, 2020, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe National Character Counts Week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 722—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 722

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical questions in civil and criminal investigations and trials in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the fourth week in September 2020 is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; and

(2) recognizes that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic science service providers to—

(i) acknowledge the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic science service providers and the future demands that forensic science service providers will face; and

(iv) contact local media outlets and invite those groups to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the fourth week of September 2020 to be “National Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) individuals in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage with local forensic science laboratories about working together more effectively.

SENATE RESOLUTION 723—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS “CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 723

Whereas campus-related housing fires at colleges in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Pennsylvania, other States, and Washington, D.C. have tragically cut the lives of several young individuals short;

Whereas, since January 2000, at least 175 individuals, including students, parents, and children, have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas approximately 87 percent of those campus-related fire deaths occurred in off-campus housing;

Whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus housing;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the occupants had compromised or deactivated fire safety systems;

Whereas automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide early warning of a fire that is necessary for occupants of a building and the fire department to take appropriate action;

Whereas an automatic fire sprinkler system is a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of building occupants;

Whereas many college students live in off-campus housing, a fraternity or sorority

house, or a residence hall that is not adequately protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system, an automatic fire alarm system, or an adequate smoke alarm;

Whereas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, college students are taking more courses online and spending more time indoors, thus increasing the need for fire safety and prevention education;

Whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education while in college;

Whereas educating young individuals in the United States about the importance of fire safety is vital to help ensure that young individuals engage in fire-safe behavior during college and after college; and

Whereas developing a generation of adults who practice fire safety may significantly reduce future loss of life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”; and

(2) encourages administrators of institutions of higher education and municipalities across the United States—

(A) to provide educational programs about fire safety to all students of institutions of higher education in September and throughout the school year;

(B) to evaluate the level of fire safety provided in both on-campus and off-campus student housing; and

(C) to ensure fire-safe living environments through—

(i) fire safety education;

(ii) the installation of fire suppression and detection systems and smoke alarms; and

(iii) the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

SENATE RESOLUTION 724—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE PRACTICE OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED IMPRISONMENT OF WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD AND CALLING ON GOVERNMENTS FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF WOMEN WHO ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 724

Whereas Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the right to liberty and security of person, Article 9 protects against arbitrary arrest or detention, and Article 18 guarantees the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

Whereas women across the world face enormous risks to advance human rights and pursue progress for their communities, including—

(1) discriminatory policies and attitudes;

(2) repressive governments;

(3) abusive authorities; and

(4) critical threats to their health, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas women activists across the world are being unjustly detained in order to silence their voices and end their activism;

Whereas women journalists are being unjustly detained for speaking truth to power and exposing corruption and abuses by governments and other authorities;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic presents a severe threat to women who are detained unjustly and who are often housed in overcrowded prisons with limited access to medical care, which can convert unjust prison sentences into death sentences for vulnerable detained women;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has waged a brutal campaign to suppress political dissent and vibrant ethnic minority communities;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has suppressed and detained human rights legal professionals, including Li Yuhua, who has been severely mistreated in detention and who went on a hunger strike in 2018;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has subjected Uyghurs in Xinjiang to mass surveillance, forced labor, forced birth control, forced sterilization, and extrajudicial internment, including—

(1) Rahile Dawut, a professor of traditional Uyghur culture;

(2) Gulmira Imin, a former website administrator and government employee; and

(3) Nigare Abdushukur, who was sentenced to 19 years imprisonment after inquiring about her mother's detention;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has targeted Tibetans for celebrating their heritage, including—

(1) Bonkho Kyi, who was detained for organizing a picnic celebration for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's 80th birthday; and

(2) Yeshe Choedron, who was sentenced in 2008 to 15 years imprisonment after participating in protests;

Whereas in Iran, human rights defenders have been steadfast in their advocacy despite repeated abuse and arrest by authorities, including currently detained human rights activists—

(1) Nasrin Sotoudeh, who spoke out against the death penalty and laws forcing women to wear hijabs and who is currently on a hunger strike and is in critical condition;

(2) Atena Daemi, a human rights activist who is serving an additional 2 years in prison and facing 74 lashes for participating in a peaceful sit-in protest in Evin prison; and

(3) Narges Mohammadi, vice president of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders, who has experienced severe health conditions and lung disease while in prison and has suffered from worsening COVID-19 symptoms since June 29, 2020;

Whereas Iranian authorities have also recently arrested and imprisoned environmentalists working for the Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation, including Sepideh Kashami and McGill University graduate Niloufar Bayani, who previously worked for the United Nations Environment Programme;

Whereas Turkey is the world's second worst jailer of journalists, with 47 journalists imprisoned in 2019, including—

(1) Hatice Duman, owner and editor at Atilim, which published editorials condemning President Erdogan's policies; and

(2) Aysenur Parildak and Hanim Büsra Erdal, journalists for Zaman, which authorities claim has ties to Fethullah Gülen;

Whereas in Egypt, President Sisi has attempted to quash dissent by jailing and abusing human rights defenders, including—

(1) Mahienour el-Masry, a human rights lawyer accused of spreading “false news”;

(2) Esraa Abdel Fattah, a human rights activist and reporter who was reportedly beaten, hung from handcuffs, and choked with her clothes by authorities; and

(3) Sanaa Seif, who was detained while filing a complaint at the Public Prosecutor's office regarding her assault outside Cairo's Tora prison, which houses her brother, who is a political activist;

Whereas Burundian authorities arrested and convicted 4 journalists at Iwacu, Burun-

di's last remaining independent newspaper, including Christine Kamikazi and Agnès Ndirubusa, after a flawed trial, for allegedly attempting to undermine state security;

Whereas Saudi Arabian women's rights and human rights activists Loujain al-Hathloul, Nassima al-Sada, Samar Badawi, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Maya'a al-Zahrani all remain wrongfully imprisoned;

Whereas in the Philippines, Senator Leila de Lima remains unjustly imprisoned for her vocal criticism of extrajudicial killings carried out during President Duterte's “war on drugs”;

Whereas in Eritrea, political dissident Aster Fissehatsion has been held incommunicado without charge or trial since 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports women who are being unjustly detained around the world;

(2) affirms that a government should never detain its citizens for exercising the rights of freedom of assembly, association, and speech;

(3) calls on governments that are unjustly detaining women for exercising their fundamental rights to immediately and unconditionally release these political prisoners; and

(4) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with foreign governments—

(A) to raise individual cases of women political prisoners; and

(B) press for their immediate release.

SENATE RESOLUTION 725—ESTABLISHING THE SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 725

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

(a) COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Senate the Senate Human Rights Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(2) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

(A) serve as a forum for bipartisan discussion of international human rights issues and promotion of internationally recognized human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(B) raise awareness of international human rights violations through regular briefings and hearings; and

(C) collaborate with congressional committees and other congressional entities, the executive branch, human rights entities, and nongovernmental organizations to promote human rights initiatives within the Senate.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—The Commission shall not—

(A) have legislative jurisdiction;

(B) have authority to take legislative action on any bill or resolution; or

(C) encroach upon the jurisdiction of any standing, select, or special committee of the Senate.

(4) MEMBERSHIP.—Any Senator may become a member of the Commission by submitting a written statement to that effect to the Commission.

(5) CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Two members of the Commission shall be appointed to serve as co-chairpersons of the Commission, as follows: