

S. 3838. A bill to authorize the confiscation of property of certain Russian persons subject to sanctions imposed by the United States and the use of that property for the benefit of the people of Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3839. A bill to clarify that the Federal Trade Commission Act prohibits excessive and unjustified price increases in the sale of certain products and services when an emergency or disaster results in abnormal disruptions of the market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3840. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the threshold for the de minimis exception for information reporting by third party settlement organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3841. A bill to provide for the termination of all contracts between the United Nations Department of Peace Operations and the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNOCK:

S. 3842. A bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to permit State and local coronavirus fiscal recovery funds to be used to address increased costs of essential items; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3843. A bill to require the Environmental Protection Agency to issue analyses on the environmental and economic impacts of rules and rulemakings of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 3844. A bill to establish a clear and uniform process, on a nationwide basis, for replacing the London interbank offered rate in existing contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3845. A bill to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KING, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 546. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate condemning the Russian Federation, President Vladimir Putin, members of the Russian Security Council, the Russian Armed Forces, and Russian military commanders for committing atrocities, including alleged war crimes, against the peo-

ple of Ukraine and others; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. Res. 547. A resolution recognizing the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 79

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 79, a bill to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 349

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global basic education programs.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1408

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from South Caro-

lina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1408, a bill to posthumously award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Glen Doherty, Tyrone Woods, J. Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, in recognition of their contributions to the Nation.

S. 1435

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1435, a bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, and for other purposes.

S. 1469

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities.

S. 2178

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2178, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel employed by States or their political subdivisions, and for other purposes.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2907

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3048

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3048, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish an Advisory Commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education, and for other purposes.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3405, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue a rule providing that certain low power television stations may be accorded primary status as Class A television licensees, and for other purposes.

S. 3417

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3417, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3545

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3545, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 3580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

S. 3641

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3641, a bill to extend protections to part-time workers in the areas of family and medical leave and pension plans, and to ensure equitable treatment in the workplace.

S. 3714

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3714, a bill to prioritize United States energy independence, and for other purposes.

S. 3742

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3742, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes.

S. 3755

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin

(Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3755, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 with respect to arbitration.

S. 3822

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3822, a bill to prohibit the President from promulgating new oil and gas regulations until after the Russian troops have withdrawn from Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 30

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United Nations should take immediate procedural actions necessary to amend Article 23 of the Charter of the United Nations to remove the Russian Federation as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3836. A bill to establish within the Executive Office of the President the Taxpayer Watchdog Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, there are very few things that possess the power to change the course of history almost instantaneously. Information is one.

Consider, right now, citizens in Ukraine are holding one of the most ruthless, autocratic, and powerful men in the world, Vladimir Putin, accountable for his barbaric assault on their country with their firsthand accounts being live-streamed from behind the battle lines.

Putin is attempting to censor coverage of the bloody conflict by threatening to jail journalists and Russian citizens who dare use the word “war” to describe his unprovoked attack.

Even the United Nations instructed its staff not to refer to Russia’s military assault on Ukraine as a “war” or “invasion.” Yet, every day, Ukrainians are bypassing this blockade of information and exposing the Russian tyrant’s atrocities in real time by sharing images of civilians standing up to the heavily armed Russian invaders, the innocent victims and destruction caused by the bombing, and captured Russian soldiers in tears testifying that they were lied to and misled into attacking a peaceful country.

As a result, the people of Ukraine have rallied the world, including many Russians, behind their courageous struggle to preserve freedom and democracy against the largest military assault in Europe since World War II.

This is the power of information.

Authoritarians like Putin cannot hide their dirty deeds in the dark as long as light can be shined to expose the truth. It should serve as a reminder to every single American how important it is that we uphold and defend the fundamental principles of our Nation that make us so great—in particular, our First Amendment.

We should never take these American freedoms for granted. That is why it is important we celebrate the freedom of information every year during Sunshine Week. With widespread distrust in government and the media and Big Tech controlling what facts and opinions can even be shared, it has become increasingly important that each one of us has the power to access facts, unfiltered.

To arm us with information, over the past half century, a number of important laws have been passed by Congress to increase openness in government and give our citizens a right to know. These include the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, which allows access to government documents, and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, which provides a detailed accounting of how, where, why, and by whom taxpayer dollars are being spent.

To demonstrate the importance of these laws, let me give you a relatively simple example with potentially profound implications.

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, I teamed up with my friends at the White Coat Waste Project to use a combination of these transparency laws to follow a trail of U.S. taxpayer dollars to China’s state-run Wuhan Institute of Virology, where they were being used to pay for dangerous research on coronaviruses. The world is now demanding to know if these studies could have been the source of the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down our planet for the past 2 years and claimed the lives of millions around the globe.

Regretfully, we still don’t know the whole truth because communist China refuses to cooperate and is, instead, destroying evidence and coercing investigators to dismiss any suggestion that the virus might have escaped from the lab. Even many within the free press of our own country, the scientific community, and Big Tech fell for the Communist misinformation campaign, smearing anyone who even suggested the lab could have been the source of the outbreak as spreading “conspiracy theories.”

We refused to be intimidated by this Communist Party’s propaganda and continued our search for the truth. We followed the science and the money and discovered the world was being told a story that was very much different from what was transpiring behind those closed doors.

Thanks, in part, to a transparency law requiring the disclosure of details on projects paid for by U.S. taxpayers, we knew NIH was funding a group