

race, color, religion, national origin, and sex, including gender identity and sexual orientation;

(3) the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of age;

(4) the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-555), which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition;

(5) title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq.) and sections 501 and 505 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791, 794a), which prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of disability; and

(6) title II of the Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of genetic information;

Whereas, since 1965, the United States has made great progress in ensuring equal opportunity and fair treatment in the workplace for women, workers of color, workers with disabilities, older workers, and other workers;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 promises workers that they can earn a paycheck without facing discrimination or harassment in the workplace and without fear of retaliation;

Whereas the EEOC plays a vital role in making that promise a reality by investigating workplace discrimination and harassment, and by enforcing Federal anti-discrimination statutes;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2021, the EEOC resolved over 62,000 charges and recovered over \$350,000,000 in remedies for violations of anti-discrimination laws, and between fiscal years 2018 and 2021, the EEOC received over 98,000 charges alleging harassment, of which, over 27,000 were related to sexual harassment;

Whereas, despite the progress that has been made toward equity and fairness in the workplace, the gender wage gap persists, and according to the most recent data and updated methodology, women were paid just 73 cents for every dollar paid to men in 2020, with even greater disparities for women of color;

Whereas the EEOC's own extensive study of sexual harassment in the workplace concluded that it is difficult to even know how many individuals experience sexual harassment, a critical first step to addressing harassment and ensuring that workers feel safe; and

Whereas tipped workers (who are largely low wage, women, and immigrant workers) are more likely to experience workplace harassment and retaliation, and account for 14 percent of harassment charges to the EEOC, a high share of such harassment charges: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the critical role the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (referred to in this resolution as the "EEOC") plays in addressing longstanding issues including the wage gap, combating workplace harassment, and ensuring all workers, including LGBTQ+ workers, workers with disabilities, pregnant workers, and workers of color, are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace; and

(2) recognizes the work that still remains to be done to secure the rights and opportunities guaranteed by Federal anti-discrimination laws, which ensure all workers have a fair shot at success in the workplace.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 708—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE POLITICAL REPRESSION IN BELARUS ON THE TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUGUST 2020, FRAUDULENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 708

Whereas Alyaksandr Lukashenka has ruled Belarus as an undemocratic dictatorship since the first presidential election in Belarus in 1994, dismantling the democratic institutions of Belarus and seeking to jail those who compete against him in presidential elections or protest his authoritarian regime;

Whereas the Lukashenka regime jailed leading opposition candidates that attempted to compete in the August 9, 2020, presidential election in Belarus;

Whereas Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya ran in the August 9, 2020, presidential election after the jailing of her husband, opposition candidate Siarhei Tsikhanouski, and was widely seen as the legitimate winner by the international community;

Whereas the August 9, 2020 presidential election, in which Lukashenka claimed victory, was marred by widespread concern over its legitimacy, as noted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Department of State, and reputable international human rights groups;

Whereas the Senate, as expressed in Senate Resolution 658 (116th Congress) and Senate Resolution 345 (117th Congress), both of which passed with unanimous support, has stated its deep concern regarding the most recent fraudulent election that took place in Belarus on August 9, 2020;

Whereas, in response to the August 9, 2020, fraudulent presidential election, the people of Belarus staged the largest and longest sustained public protests in the history of the country, calling for a democratic Belarus;

Whereas, since the August 9, 2020, fraudulent presidential election, the Lukashenka regime has continued to pressure, harass, imprison, and persecute opposition leaders, civil society activists, human rights defenders, and independent media;

Whereas, according to the Viasna Human Rights Centre, the Government of Belarus has continued to keep at least 1,244 people imprisoned on politically motivated charges or under false pretense of terrorist threat, including opposition candidate Siarhei Tsikhanouski, who was sentenced to 18 years in prison;

Whereas Russia provided critical support to the Lukashenka regime following the repression of the protests that followed the August 9, 2020, fraudulent presidential election, backing the Lukashenka regime's efforts to prevent the emergence of a democratic Belarus, including through the provision of financial assistance, propaganda support, and offers of military assistance;

Whereas, on May 23, 2021, the Government of Belarus unlawfully forced the landing of Ryanair Flight 4978 in Minsk to arrest journalist and activist Raman Pratasevich and his partner Sofia Sapega;

Whereas, since July 7, 2021, the Government of Belarus has weaponized vulnerable migrants by manufacturing a border crisis

with Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland in retaliation for sanctions imposed by the European Union;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched an unprovoked war against Ukraine, using Belarus as a launching pad for its attack;

Whereas the Lukashenka regime has continued to allow Belarus to be used by Russian President Vladimir Putin for his illegal and unprovoked war against Ukraine, including via a sham February 27, 2022, constitutional referendum on provisions to enable Belarus to host nuclear weapons and undo Belarus' decades-long commitment to neutrality;

Whereas, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Lukashenka has met with Vladimir Putin on at least four separate occasions, including most recently on June 25, 2022, when Putin pledged to supply Belarus with missile systems capable of carrying nuclear weapons;

Whereas, despite support from the Lukashenka regime for Putin's war in Ukraine, hundreds of brave Belarusians have joined together to defend Ukraine, both on the battlefield in Ukraine and in the disruption of Russian supply lines;

Whereas the United States and allies of the United States have imposed sanctions on the Lukashenka regime for the August 9, 2020, fraudulent presidential election and ensuing repression as well as support for Putin's war in Ukraine;

Whereas, on December 15 2020, Julie Fisher was confirmed by the Senate as Ambassador to Belarus, but her credentials were not accepted by the Lukashenka regime, resulting in President's Biden decision in October 2021 to appoint Mrs. Fisher as Special Envoy for Belarus; and

Whereas Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, in exile in Lithuania, continues to represent the widely shared desire of the Belarusian people for free and fair elections and democracy: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) continues, on the second anniversary of the fraudulent presidential election that took place in Belarus on August 9, 2020, to refuse to recognize Alyaksandr Lukashenka as the legitimately elected leader of Belarus;

(2) condemns the ongoing harassment and persecution of opposition leaders, civil society activists, human rights defenders, and independent media carried out by the Lukashenka regime, and urges the immediate release, without preconditions, of all political prisoners in Belarus, including Siarhei Tsikhanouski, as well as for all representatives of democratic forces, civil society, and independent media in exile to be able to return home without fear of persecution or prosecution;

(3) calls for new presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in Belarus, conducted in a manner that meets international standards and includes independent election monitoring;

(4) condemns the shameful and self-serving support provided by the Lukashenka regime for Russian President Putin's savage war in Ukraine;

(5) welcomes continued and coordinated sanctions imposed by the United States and European Union and other tools to support democracy in Belarus;

(6) recognizes the extraordinary support offered by the Governments of Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine to support the people of Belarus, including support for the political opposition, accommodation of political refugees, and backing of independent media;

(7) encourages President Biden to swiftly appoint a new Special Envoy for Belarus to support the pro-democracy movement; and

(8) stands in solidarity with the many brave Belarusians, such as Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who continue to strive for a free and democratic Belarus.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following fellows in my office: Carrie Libell, through July 31, 2022; and Sean Dzierzanowski, through December 31, 2022.

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

#### END HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS ACT OF 2022

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 384, S. 3470.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3470) to provide for the implementation of certain trafficking in contracting provisions, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE: I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3470) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3470

*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 "End Human Trafficking in Government Contracts Act of 2022".

#### SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFICKING IN CONTRACTING PROVISIONS.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO REFER VIOLATIONS TO AGENCY SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT OFFICIAL.—Section 1704(c)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 22 U.S.C. 7104b(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "refer the matter to the agency suspension and debarment official and" before "consider taking one of the following actions"; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (G).

(b) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF TRAFFICKING IN CONTRACTING PROVISIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report on implementation of title XVII of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2092).

#### COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS TO SUPPORT UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 413, S. Res. 638.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 638) commending the Government and people of the Republic of Moldova for their heroic efforts to support Ukrainian refugees fleeing President Putin's illegal war against Ukraine.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows: