

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 258—RE-AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES PROMOTING THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING OF REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 258

Whereas June 20, 2023, is an international day designated by the United Nations as “World Refugee Day,” to honor refugees around the globe and celebrate the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their homes to escape conflict or persecution due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;

Whereas July 28, 2023, is the 72nd anniversary of the adoption of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951, which defines the term “refugee” and outlines the rights of refugees and the legal obligations of nation states to protect such rights;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this preamble as “UNHCR”) has recently reported that—

(1) there are more than 108,000,000 displaced people who have been forced from their homes worldwide, which is more displaced people than at any other time in recorded history, including more than 35,200,000 refugees and 62,500,000 internally displaced persons;

(2) 67 percent of the world’s refugees originate from just Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan, or Venezuela;

(3) more than 50 percent of the population of Syria (at least 13,000,000 people) have been displaced since the beginning of the Syrian civil war in 2011, either exiting Syria across the international border or going to other areas within Syria, and this displacement crisis has been exacerbated by major earthquakes that struck Turkiye and Syria in early February 2023;

(4) more than 14,000,000 Ukrainian nationals and other third country nationals are currently displaced as a result of Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine;

(5) there are an estimated 5,700,000 Afghan refugees around the world, of whom more than 90 percent are hosted in either Iran or Pakistan, while an additional 3,500,000 Afghans are internally displaced, having fled their homes searching for refuge within Afghanistan;

(6) Latin America and the Caribbean currently host 84 percent of the more than 7,000,000 Venezuelan refugees and migrants globally, and the Americas currently host approximately 20,000,000 refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless people from around the world;

(7) more than 1,800,000 people are currently displaced due to the ongoing conflict in Sudan, and a large majority of such people

are women and children who are traveling to neighboring countries; and

(8) 76 percent of all refugees worldwide are hosted in low and middle income countries and fewer than 1 percent of vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement have had such opportunity due to lack of sufficient resettlement places;

Whereas welcoming people from around the world who have been oppressed and persecuted is a central tenet of our great Nation, and the United States is home to a diverse population of refugees and immigrants who have added to the economic strengths and cultural richness of our communities;

Whereas since seeking asylum is a protected right under United States domestic and international law, the United States is legally obligated to contribute to the maintenance of a humane and functioning international asylum system;

Whereas the principle of non-refoulement is also a central tenet of the United States refugee and asylum systems, and thousands of people living in the United States who immigrated from countries around the world would be subject to harm if they were deported to their countries of origin due to widespread conflict or persecution in such countries;

Whereas the United States Refugee Admissions Program, which was established in 1980—

(1) is a lifesaving pillar of global humanitarian efforts;

(2) advances United States national security and foreign policy goals; and

(3) supports regional host countries;

Whereas resettlement is an essential part of a comprehensive strategy to respond to refugee crises, promote regional stability, and strengthen United States national security;

Whereas resettlement to the United States is available for the most vulnerable refugees who undergo rigorous security vetting and medical screening processes;

Whereas the United States supports the efforts of the UNHCR to increase protection for, and the global resettlement of, LGBTQI+ refugees overseas;

Whereas women and girls have an increased risk of sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking while they are traveling to seek safe living conditions;

Whereas through the United States Refugee Resettlement Program—

(1) only 11,411 refugees arrived in the United States during fiscal year 2021, which is the lowest number of refugees for any fiscal year since the program began;

(2) only 25,465 refugees arrived in the United States during fiscal year 2022 despite an admissions goal of 125,000; and

(3) as of May 30, 2023, only 31,797 refugees had arrived in the United States during fiscal year 2023;

Whereas resettlement organizations, businesses, and other community and faith-based groups offer support for refugees who resettle in the United States;

Whereas, between 2005 and 2014, refugees who have resettled in the United States contributed an estimated \$269,100,000,000 to the national economy, which far surpasses the \$206,100,000,000 spent by the United States to assist refugees worldwide during such period; and

Whereas most refugees integrate and quickly become self-sufficient by joining the workforce, paying taxes, supporting local commerce, helping to fill labor shortages in critical industries, and creating new jobs; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the urgency to establish and follow comprehensive, fair, and humane policies to address forced migration and refugee challenges;

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

(3) recognizes the many individuals who have risked their lives working, either individually or on behalf of nongovernmental organizations or international agencies, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this resolution as “UNHCR”), to provide lifesaving assistance and protection for people around the world who have been displaced from their homes;

(4) reaffirms the imperative to fully restore United States asylum protections enshrined in the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212) by rejecting harmful bans and restrictions that limit refugees’ access to protections and due process at the United States border;

(5) reaffirms the importance of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program as a critical tool of the United States Government—

(A) to strengthen national and regional security; and

(B) to encourage international solidarity with host countries; and

(6) calls upon the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the United States Ambassador to the United Nations—

(A) to uphold the United States’ international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance, and restoring its leadership role in the protection of vulnerable refugee populations that endure gender-based violence, human trafficking, persecution, and violence against religious minorities, forced conscription, genocide, and exploitation;

(B) to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts, prevent new conflicts from emerging, and tackle the root causes of involuntary migration;

(C) to continue supporting the efforts of the UNHCR and advance the work of nongovernmental organizations to protect refugees and asylum seekers regardless of their country of origin, race, ethnicity, or religious beliefs;

(D) to continue to alleviate pressures, through humanitarian and development assistance, on frontline refugee host countries that absorb the majority of the world’s refugees, while effectively advocating for refugee well-being, including access to education and livelihoods;

(E) to meaningfully include refugees and displaced populations in creating and achieving the policy solutions affecting them;

(F) to respond to the global refugee crisis by meeting robust refugee admissions goals;

(G) to actively participate in the Global Refugee Forum scheduled to take place in Geneva in December 2023 to advance United States goals and gain commitments from the global community to expand refugee protection; and

(H) to reaffirm the goals of “World Refugee Day” and reiterate the United States’ strong commitment to protect refugees and asylum seekers who live without adequate material, social, or legal protections.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 136. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and

the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 137. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 136 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 138. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 136. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

#### SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This resolution of ratification shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after ratification.

SA 137. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 136 submitted by Mr. SCHUMER and intended to be proposed to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 4, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

SA 138. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 112-8, The Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Chile for the Avoid-

ance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed in Washington on February 4, 2010, with a Protocol signed the same day, as corrected by exchanges of notes effected February 25, 2011, and February 10 and 21, 2012, and a related agreement effected by exchange of notes (the "related Agreement") on February 4, 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

( ) The Convention authorizes the United States to request or accept, regardless of whether such information is exchanged on an automatic basis, only information that is individualized and relevant to an individual investigation for carrying out the provisions of the Convention or to the administration or enforcement of the domestic tax laws concerning taxes covered by the Convention. Information that is not individualized or not relevant to an individual investigation shall not be requested or accepted, regardless of whether that information is provided on an automatic basis, by the United States.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I have two 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 5 p.m.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until the end of the Congress: Nell Palumbo, Reagan Philbeck, and John Orantes.

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

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 277

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 277) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major

rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive a second reading on the next legislative day.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., on Wednesday, June 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume consideration of the veto message with respect to S. J. Res. 11 and that the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objection of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, at 11:30 a.m.; further, that following the disposition of the veto message, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Merle nomination, and following the cloture vote on the Merle nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture has been invoked, all time be considered expired and the Senate vote on the confirmation of the Merle nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:43 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 10 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 20, 2023:

##### THE JUDICIARY

JULIE RIKELMAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT.