

this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(4) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.—For the scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Department of Commerce—

- (A) for fiscal year 2025, \$1,161,000,000;
- (B) for fiscal year 2026, \$1,247,000,000;
- (C) for fiscal year 2027, \$1,337,000,000;
- (D) for fiscal year 2028, \$1,433,000,000;
- (E) for fiscal year 2029, \$1,536,000,000;
- (F) for fiscal year 2030, \$1,647,000,000;
- (G) for fiscal year 2031, \$1,766,000,000;
- (H) for fiscal year 2032, \$1,894,000,000;
- (I) for fiscal year 2033, \$2,032,000,000;
- (J) for fiscal year 2034, \$2,179,000,000; and
- (K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year

thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(5) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE.—For the Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—

- (A) for fiscal year 2025, \$7,885,000,000;
- (B) for fiscal year 2026, \$8,467,000,000;
- (C) for fiscal year 2027, \$9,077,000,000;
- (D) for fiscal year 2028, \$9,729,000,000;
- (E) for fiscal year 2029, \$10,431,000,000;
- (F) for fiscal year 2030, \$11,185,000,000;
- (G) for fiscal year 2031, \$11,994,000,000;
- (H) for fiscal year 2032, \$12,863,000,000;
- (I) for fiscal year 2033, \$13,796,000,000;
- (J) for fiscal year 2034, \$14,797,000,000; and
- (K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year

thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The term “Department of Defense science and technology programs” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Defense science and technology programs.

(2) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The term “National Science Foundation” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Science Foundation.

(3) OFFICE OF SCIENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—The term “Office of Science at the Department of Energy” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Energy Office of Science.

(4) SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE AT THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate.

(5) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—The term “scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology” means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes,

offices, and centers that make up the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16-0327-0-1-600)” the following:

“Appropriations under the American Innovation Act.”.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

(1) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4000. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce legislation to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California.

This legislation would provide clarity that the Lytton Rancheria of California is able to place land into trust via the Department of the Interior’s standard land-to-trust process, 25 CFR part 151.

The Lytton Rancheria would like to place additional land into trust in order to build a proper homeland and provide housing for their members. The bill is needed to clarify that Lytton Rancheria is subject to the Indian Reorganization Act and, just like other Tribal governments, is able to put land into trust through the administrative process.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SENATE TO WORK ALONGSIDE THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TO BUILD THE BLACK WEALTH AGENDA AND OUTLINE THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO ACHIEVE THE BLACK WEALTH AGENDA

Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 598

Whereas 2022 data from the Federal Reserve System has showed that the racial

wealth gap in the United States has persisted into the 21st century, as the average per capita wealth for White people in the United States was \$284,310 compared to only \$44,100 for Black people in the United States;

Whereas access to high-quality education has been identified as a key factor in narrowing the racial wealth gap in the United States, yet extraordinary income inequality has diminished opportunities for families from low-income backgrounds;

Whereas educational segregation by income poses a threat to the promise of equal opportunities in education;

Whereas the failure of the Federal Government to effectively address growing inequality has resulted in decreased economic mobility rates in the United States and made the American dream more elusive, as evidenced by a decline in the fraction of children who earn more than their parents, primarily due to the growth in inequality;

Whereas the enduring legacy of Jim Crow laws, which aimed to lower economic progress of Black people in the United States through racial segregation, disenfranchisement, and limitation of geographic mobility, has left a lasting imprint on the socioeconomic standing of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Jim Crow laws directly targeted education and other areas of life, significantly hindering the pursuit of prosperity by Black people in the United States and contributing to the persistent economic divide;

Whereas homeownership in the United States, a critical avenue for wealth building, remains significantly less attainable for Black people compared to White people, with disparities in homeownership rates exceeding 30 percent in some cities, exacerbating the racial wealth gap and hindering the ability of Black families to accumulate and pass down wealth across generations;

Whereas homes in majority-Black neighborhoods in the United States are systematically undervalued compared to those in predominantly White areas, with the devaluation contributing to underfunded public services, including education, and perpetuating a cycle of economic disadvantage and inequality for Black people residing in these communities;

Whereas employment discrimination has resulted in higher unemployment rates and lower wages for Black people in the United States compared to their White counterparts, with Black workers being disproportionately represented in low-wage positions and underrepresented in high-wage executive roles;

Whereas the war on drugs and discriminatory criminal justice policies in the United States have led to mass incarceration of Black people at rates significantly higher than White people, disrupting families, limiting employment opportunities, and imposing financial burdens that hinder wealth accumulation;

Whereas systemic racism in healthcare has created disparities in access to quality care and outcomes for Black people in the United States, leading to higher healthcare costs and economic instability for affected families, further widening the racial wealth gap;

Whereas Black people in the United States face significant barriers in accessing financial services and capital, with a lower likelihood of loan approval and higher interest rates compared to White applicants, limiting opportunities for business ownership and investment;

Whereas, according to an analysis by Citi Group, disparities for Black people across the economic system of the United States from 2004 to 2024 have cost the economy \$16,000,000,000,000;

Whereas 14.4 percent of the population in the United States is Black, yet Black households hold only 4 percent of total household wealth compared to 84 percent held by White households;

Whereas unions significantly reduce racial wage gaps, and racial wealth gaps are generally smaller among union members as a result of the enhanced job protections that workers covered by a union contract enjoy;

Whereas the median non-union White family has more than \$7 in wealth for every \$1 held by the median non-union Black family, but that ratio is roughly half as large among union families where the median union White family has \$3.70 in wealth for every \$1 held by the median union Black family;

Whereas, in 2022, the median income for Black households in the United States was \$52,860 compared to a median income of \$81,060 for White households;

Whereas, according to economic data from the Federal Reserve—

(1) only 46 percent of Black households in the United States owned their home, compared to 75 percent of White households, a disparity on par with the 1960's; and

(2) the unemployment rate for Black workers in the United States is consistently twice as high as it is for White workers;

Whereas addressing economic disparities for Black people in the United States requires reimagining governmental and societal policies and practices, which have been rooted in discriminatory intent since the founding of the United States;

Whereas addressing the racial wealth gap in the United States must be a holistic effort concentrated across several policy principles, including entrepreneurship, financial services, affordable housing, workforce development, protecting and promoting civic participation, and reforming tax policy;

Whereas we must commit to growing the economy of the United States by creating legislative solutions that deconstruct barriers to economic opportunities for Black people and that build Black intergenerational wealth;

Whereas the Congressional Black Caucus believes it is of the utmost importance—

(1) to enact legislation that boosts equitable outcomes; and

(2) to coordinate a legislative agenda that cements positive changes and reinforces a commitment to preserving Black economic prosperity in the United States;

Whereas the Black Wealth Agenda will have an amplified impact on all policy areas where existing oppressive regulation prevents progress; and

Whereas, from removing barriers to quality healthcare for Black people in the United States, to addressing environmental justice issues for Black communities that continue to be on the frontlines of the climate crisis, it is clear that a holistic approach is critical to closing the economic divide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commits—

(A) to promoting Black entrepreneurship by expanding funding solutions, strengthening outreach to educate communities in the United States; and

(B) to reforming policies that have created obstacles to success for Black businesses;

(2) supports establishing forward-looking entrepreneurial goals and driving communities to the center of innovation in the 21st century by—

(A) creating opportunities in sectors such as—

- (i) green energy;
- (ii) technology; and
- (iii) healthcare; and

(B) building a workforce to be an investment in a better future;

(3) asserts that systemic discrimination in the housing market in the United States has greatly contributed to the widening of the racial wealth gap and must be rectified;

(4) will create solutions to address the affordable housing crisis in the United States by increasing the supply of available housing, reducing housing costs generally, enhancing programs to support and protect renters, and enforcing anti-discrimination laws;

(5) supports initiatives to build the Black workforce and equip the Black community in the United States with the necessary tools to compete for stable jobs in every career and at every career level, including the ability to join a union and collectively bargain;

(6) recognizes that as Black people in the United States are overrepresented in minimum wage jobs, the Federal minimum wage must be updated to reflect inflation;

(7) acknowledges that additional necessary reforms addressing the economic disparity in the United States include improvements to career pathways programs, investing in historically Black colleges and universities, increasing the affordability of post high-school education, expanding access to apprenticeship and job skills training programs, and other solutions that maximize the potential of the Black workforce;

(8) supports the goal of expanding economic opportunity, equity, and wealth creation for Black people in the United States at every socioeconomic level, in every industry, and in every residential setting, with progress toward this goal—

(A) being monitored, evaluated, and enhanced by Federal agencies that have relevant programs and initiatives; and

(B) requiring that Black people in the United States be able to build a financially secure retirement;

(9) must support tax reform initiatives for Black families in the United States that—

(A) help secure retirement, end poverty, and increase homeownership affordability;

(B) sustain students, families, and the economy; and

(C) facilitate the accumulation of generational wealth; and

(10) must commit to creating equitable and balanced tax policy in the United States that levels the economic playing field, addresses wealth concentration, and advances opportunities for economic gain.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—PROTECTING THE IRANIAN POLITICAL REFUGEES, INCLUDING FEMALE FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, IN ASHRAF-3 IN ALBANIA

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 599

Whereas, since October 2023, the Iranian regime has increasingly acted as the epicenter of terrorism in the region, from supporting proxies that vehemently oppose peace in the Middle East, to threatening commercial shipping and free trade in the Red Sea and from targeting American forces in the region, to providing missile and drones to rogue actors, all of which pose serious risks to regional peace and security and endanger the vital interests of the United States;

Whereas Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism today;

Whereas the Iranian people have rejected the regime ruling Iran through several

rounds of major demonstrations, engulfing all 31 provinces of Iran calling for change;

Whereas the Iranian regime has resorted to killing, torture, sexual violence, and imprisonment of protesters, and several thousand protesters since 2017 have been killed, and many more have been imprisoned;

Whereas the Iranian regime has been intent on eliminating the Iranian political refugees who survived Tehran's repression and were first based in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, in the mid-1980s;

Whereas, starting in 2012, the United States Government and the United Nations initiated the relocation of nearly 3,000 Iranian dissidents from Camp Ashraf, Iraq, where they were repeatedly attacked by the Iranian regime's proxies, and facilitated their gradual relocation in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to Albania;

Whereas the relocation of these Iranian political refugees to Albania from Iraq was completed in September 2016, and the refugees, a third of them women, are now residing in Ashraf-3 near Tirana in Albania;

Whereas, on April 19, 2016, before the relocation of the majority of the residents to Albania, in a letter to a European Parliament Vice-President, the Prime Minister of Albania wrote, "Albania is fully engaged and committed to ensure for the Iranian refugees all rights stipulated in the Geneva Convention 1951, in the European Human Rights Convention and in the whole international legislation.";

Whereas over 900 women and men of Ashraf-3 are former political prisoners who endured torture while in prisons and many of them are witnesses of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and other political killings in Iran, among them eyewitnesses of crimes committed by Ebrahim Raisi;

Whereas these witnesses must be fully protected for potential testimonies before international courts investigating the 1988 massacre and other grave human rights violations in Iran;

Whereas, in November 2021, the Swedish Judiciary moved the whole court in Stockholm to Albania for two weeks to facilitate hearing testimonies of seven former Iranian political prisoners now residing in Ashraf-3, whose testimony was characterized as critical for a trial related to the 1988 massacre;

Whereas, in December 2023, a Swedish court confirmed the earlier ruling by the lower court of a life sentence for Hamid Noury, implicated in the 1988 massacre where he was an official in Gohardasht Prison;

Whereas the Iranian regime has stepped up terrorist attacks against its opponents and has used blackmail, terror threats, hostage-taking, sham judicial proceedings, and other means of intimidation against western nations to compel them to silence Iranian opponents living abroad;

Whereas, on several occasions, including in the last week of December 2023, the Iranian regime carried out large-scale cyberattacks against Albania to pressure the Government of Albania to undermine or end its hosting of Iranian political refugees;

Whereas experience has shown that any lack of decisiveness or concessions to Tehran only emboldens the Iranian regime for its destructive actions;

Whereas the Iranian regime has, over the past few months, stepped up threats against Ashraf-3, and given what the regime has done since October 7, 2023, far more vigilance on the part of the United States is required to ensure the complete protection and rights of Ashraf-3 residents in Albania;

Whereas, on December 12, 2023, the Iranian regime started sham trials in absentia for 104 veteran members of the Iranian Resistance, who, since years ago, have been primarily