

men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 923—RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY IN ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS, CONDEMNING THE USE OF POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT AS A TOOL OF REPRESSION, AND CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ACROSS THE WORLD IN COMMEMORATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ON DECEMBER 10, 2024

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 923

Whereas the Senate passed S. Res. 731, which designated December 10, 2018, as “Human Rights Day”;

Whereas December 10, 2024, marks the 76th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a landmark document that established the inalienable rights to which all humans are entitled, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property ownership, birthplace, or other status;

Whereas, in light of immense difficulties, civil society and civil society organizations contribute to the promotion, protection, and advancement of human rights, democratic governance, and rule of law across the world every day;

Whereas the state of global human rights and civil liberties has declined during the past 2 decades, with Freedom House notably tracking 18 consecutive years of decline in rights and freedoms around the world;

Whereas Freedom House reports that political rights and civil liberties in 2023 diminished in 52 countries and improved in only 21 countries;

Whereas, since 2016, 91 countries have proposed or enacted more than 260 legal measures affecting civil society, of which 72 percent have restricted human rights;

Whereas increasing restrictions on civil society organizations directly impedes the ability of such organizations to advance human rights advocacy and democracy-building work and obstructs the rights of citizens to exercise freedom of speech and assembly;

Whereas the Department of State estimates that 1,000,000 individuals find themselves unjustly behind bars as political prisoners for exercising human rights and fundamental freedoms, because of their race, religion, or ethnicity, or due to their private relationships;

Whereas political imprisonment is employed by authoritarian actors as a tool for limiting political and social dissent, stifling freedom of expression and assembly, and undermining public participation in free and fair elections;

Whereas authoritarian countries operate vast networks of political prison camps and labor camps used to indiscriminately detain thousands of individuals;

Whereas countless political prisoners in these detention facilities are subjected to

torture, inhumane conditions, enforced disappearance, or other forms of abuse;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, throughout 2023, widespread problems with elections, including violence and electoral manipulation, drove deterioration in rights and freedoms across the world, especially in countries that experienced pre- and post-election violence;

Whereas, in many countries, political opposition figures and civil society members continue to be unjustly detained for their role in demanding free and fair elections and leading peaceful democratic protests in opposition to illiberal regimes;

Whereas anti-corruption prosecutors and pro-democracy activists are arbitrarily imprisoned on baseless charges for their advocacy of greater judicial independence and transparency in countries where judicial systems are weaponized against human rights advocates;

Whereas religious minorities, religious freedom advocates, and missionaries are unjustly targeted, detained, and repressed for exercising their freedom to believe or not to believe and advocating for those same freedoms for others;

Whereas the Department of State has determined that religious minorities continue to be victims of genocides relating to religious freedom;

Whereas women face significantly higher risks of harassment and imprisonment when participating in civil society and political advocacy and heightened vulnerabilities to mental and physical abuse during arrest, questioning, and imprisonment;

Whereas authoritarian governments and nonstate actors around the world enforce systems of impunity and discrimination to systematically dismantle women's and girls' access to their civil liberties and imprison female human rights defenders and members of civil society who speak out against such oppression;

Whereas journalists face political imprisonment for fighting to report the truth, advocating for greater protections for freedom of press, and holding governments accountable to their citizens;

Whereas during 2023, according to Reporters Without Borders, nearly 800 journalists were jailed and 45 were killed for simply doing their jobs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for Human Rights Day and recognizes its global significance;

(2) recognizes the critical importance and contributions of global civil society in advancing human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

(3) condemns the use of political imprisonment as a tool of repression to restrict civil liberties and human rights;

(4) calls upon governments that are unjustly detaining individuals for their human rights and civil society advocacy work to immediately and unconditionally release these political prisoners;

(5) encourages the Department of State to continue robust campaigns to advocate for the release of political prisoners and to leverage all necessary diplomatic tools in support of such advocacy, including by—

(A) coordinating with other executive agencies on priority cases of political prisoners for any principals or high-level United States officials traveling to specific countries where a known case requires attention or diplomatic intervention;

(B) working with congressional partners, such as the Senate Human Rights Caucus and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, to coordinate advocacy on priority cases for members of Congress, including advocacy preceding official congressional travel;

(C) consulting with civil society and non-governmental organizations in countries with priority political prisoners' cases on plans of engagement and advocacy;

(D) supporting bilateral and multilateral engagement with allies and like-minded countries on issues involving the global protection of human rights, democratic governance, and the rule of law; and

(E) working with multilateral organizations and fora to devise joint efforts to advance human rights and democracy; and

(6) encourages the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, to devise joint strategies to deter authoritarian regimes from using their judicial systems (particularly arrests, detentions, and sentencing) as tools to silence dissent or for political leverage.

SENATE RESOLUTION 924—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 14, 2024, AS “NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

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

S. RES. 924

Whereas, 33 years before the date of adoption of this resolution, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December, of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir veterans' remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the 33 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 20,000,000 wreaths have been sent to various locations, including national cemeteries and veterans' memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to “Remember, Honor, and Teach”, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans' cemeteries; and
- (3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans' parade between the States of Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;

(2) honoring those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces; and

(3) teaching the next generation of children about the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by all in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023, approximately 3,000,000 veterans' remembrance wreaths were delivered to over 4,200 locations across the United States;

Whereas, in December 2024, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will again be continued by—

- (1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
- (2) other patriotic escort units, including—
 - (A) motorcycle units;
 - (B) law enforcement units; and
 - (C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans' wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the

Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 4,600 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 16, 2023, as “Wreaths Across America Day”; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2024, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans’ wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 14, 2024, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”;

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the millions of volunteers and donors involved in the worthy tradition of the Wreaths Across America project; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their family members have made, and continue to make, for the United States, a great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 925—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE FRED R. HARRIS, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 925

Whereas the Honorable Fred R. Harris (referred to in this preamble as “Senator Harris”) was born in Walters, Oklahoma, on November 13, 1930, to Fred Byron Harris and Eunice Alene Pearson Harris;

Whereas, in 1948, Senator Harris graduated with honors from Walters High School;

Whereas Senator Harris attended the University of Oklahoma where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1952 and a bachelor of laws degree in 1954;

Whereas Senator Harris practiced law in Lawton, Oklahoma;

Whereas Senator Harris founded the law firm of Harris, Newcombe, Redman, and Doolin;

Whereas, in 1956, Senator Harris was elected to the Oklahoma Senate, where he served for 8 years as one of its youngest members;

Whereas, in 1959, Senator Harris was chosen as Junior Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Young Man of Oklahoma;

Whereas, in 1964, Senator Harris won a runoff election to serve as a Senator representing the State of Oklahoma;

Whereas Senator Harris was first elected to the Senate at age 33;

Whereas, in 1966, Senator Harris was re-elected to serve a full 6-year Senate term;

Whereas Senator Harris served as a member of several Senate committees, including—

(1) from 1965 to 1973—

(A) the Committee on Government Operations of the Senate; and

(B) the Select Committee on Small Business of the Senate;

(2) from 1965 to 1967, the Committee on Public Works of the Senate; and

(3) from 1967 to 1973, the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

Whereas, in 1971, Senator Harris appointed Julie Price as one of the first female Senate pages;

Whereas, while serving in the Senate, Senator Harris—

(1) was instrumental in the creation of the Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization and Government Research of the Senate; and

(2) focused on improving the welfare system in the United States;

Whereas, in 1968, Senator Harris served as co-chair of the presidential campaign of Hubert Humphrey;

Whereas, in 1969 and 1970, Senator Harris served as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, where he ushered in reforms to allow more women and minorities to serve as delegates and in leadership positions;

Whereas, in 1967, Senator Harris was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders;

Whereas, following his time in the Senate and politics, Senator Harris moved to New Mexico;

Whereas, from 1976 to 2006, Senator Harris served as a professor of political science at the University of New Mexico;

Whereas Senator Harris founded the Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program within the University of New Mexico Political Science Department;

Whereas Senator Harris served as the Director of the Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program and a faculty member until 2018;

Whereas Senator Harris continued authoring books on political topics; and

Whereas, on November 23, 2024, Senator Harris died at the age of 94, leaving behind his wife, Margaret, and 3 children, Kathryn, Byron, and Laura: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Fred R. Harris, former Senator for the State of Oklahoma; and

(B) respectfully request that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Fred R. Harris; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of adoption of this resolution, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Fred R. Harris.

SENATE RESOLUTION 926—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY’S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party’s membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Brown (Chair), Mr. Reed, Mr. Tester, Mr. Warner, Ms. Warren, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Kim.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Wyden (Chair), Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Carper, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Casey, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Warren, Mr. Kim.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Cardin (Chair), Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Coons, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Booker, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Kim.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Peters (Chair), Mr. Carper, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Durbin (Chair), Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Welch, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Klobuchar (Chair), Mr. Schumer, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Welch, Mr. Schiff.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3314. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. SANDERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4776, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, and for other purposes.

SA 3315. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARPER) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 43, expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as “Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day”.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3314. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. SANDERS) proposed an amendment to