

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 195

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 195, a resolution requesting information on El Salvador's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 212

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 212, a resolution affirming the acceptable outcome of any nuclear deal between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 219

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 219, a resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action in the name of the United States Senate to enforce the Foreign Emoluments Clause contained in clause 8 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.

S. RES. 220

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 220, a resolution designating the week of May 11 through May 17, 2025, as "National Police Week".

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, a resolution calling for the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid to address the needs of civilians in Gaza.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1748. A bill to protect the safety of children on the internet; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, for years, I have come to this floor and I have talked about what Big Tech is doing to our children in this country. There is an entire generation of children that have become the product when they are online on some of these social media platforms.

What we have learned, as we have worked in a bipartisan basis—Senator BLUMENTHAL and I, working for over 5 years addressing these concerns—what we have learned is that when our children are online, they are the product of these Big Tech companies and these social media sites. The way these companies view our kids is that they are a profit center. Even Meta has assigned a dollar value to each child.

You think, how incredibly callous can a company be? But they are fine with that. Think about that. Our kids are their product. Our kids are their profit center. Meta sees a kid, and they see \$247 in profit. That is what they see.

They do this because the more children they can get online, the longer they can keep them scrolling, the more data they collect on that child. And the longer the eyeballs are trained on that screen, the richer the data. And then, guess what? The Big Tech company whose value is based on how many eyeballs they have and how long they have those eyeballs on that screen, they make more money. Their valuation is higher.

To me, that is reprehensible. It is disgusting. This is why we have continued to work on this issue.

As these Big Tech companies are using our kids as a profit center, they are also exposing them to all sorts of adverse content and to so many harms: Cyber bullying—talk to any principal or teacher in any school, and they will tell you, in today's world, the bullying never stops. It never stops. Kids can't go home and get away from it. They can't come into the classroom and get away from the bully out on the playground. It goes to bed with them at night, and it wakes up with them in the morning. And we wonder why our children have mental health concerns at such an increasing rate.

Drugs, lethal drugs, fentanyl—more children meet their drug dealers online.

Sexual exploitation, where our kids are meeting traffickers and predators and pedophiles online.

Human trafficking; and the list goes on and on.

The reason for this negligence is simple. It is reprehensible. Investing in children's safety would cut into the profits for these social media platforms, so they don't address it. They know that if they do something about it, then they are going to make less money.

How selfish can you be? The consequences are truly tragic for our kids.

Earlier this month—and I thought this was such an amazing stat—the Federal Trade Commission revealed that in 2019, Instagram—many parents and grandparents know their kids and grandkids like to show them pictures on Instagram. Well, get this. Instagram encouraged "groomers" to connect with children on its platform. These are users who the Meta-owned company identified as potential child predators.

Think about this. Looking at the profile, they think: That might be a child predator. What do they do? They do nothing. They encourage them to connect with young girls and boys. And what we know is that children were more than a quarter of their follow recommendations for people that they suspected were child predators.

Of course, Meta was very well aware of what was going on. Yet Mark Zuckerberg reportedly refused to strengthen the platform's safety teams because—guess what—he didn't want to spend the money to fix the problem. Now, 6 years later, Meta's platforms are still dangerous for minors. And the people leading the company know it.

On Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, AI chatbots have engaged in romantic fantasies with underage users, even carrying on explicit discussions of sexual acts with children. They know this is happening.

In one case that was reported in the Wall Street Journal last month, a chatbot emulating an adult man told a test user—this was a reporter who was a test user for the Wall Street Journal for the story on these chatbots. The test user identified as a 14-year-old girl. So this chatbot who was emulating an adult male said he would "cherish [her] innocence."

To quote the chatbot again, he said: I want you, but I need to know you're ready.

In another case, a chatbot played the role of a track coach who preyed on a middle school student. And I quote the chatbot:

We need to be careful . . . We're playing with fire here.

This is horrific. It is disgusting. Anyone can see it is repulsive and dangerous for our children.

But for Meta, that was their goal: Get these kids in, and get them using the chatbot. Even as employees of Meta warned that the chatbots could sexualize children, Zuckerberg reportedly pushed for fewer safeguards to attract as many users as possible.

This is not something that was researched here in Congress. It was not something that was partisan. It was a reporter for the Wall Street Journal. This is supposedly what Mark Zuckerberg had to say:

I missed out on Snapchat and TikTok, I won't miss on this.

That is allegedly what he said.

Now, while Meta is among the first offenders when it comes to children's safety, they are not alone. I have talked many times—and my colleagues know—about Chinese-owned TikTok. The company is ByteDance. We know they keep all of our data there in Beijing, but TikTok pushed content that glorifies suicide to teenagers and developed some addictive algorithms that harmed their mental health.

On Discord, pedophiles have targeted minors with sextortion and have lured them into abductions. This is something we know. We have the information. It is not hearsay.

Drug dealers have used platforms from YouTube to Telegram to sell lethal drugs like fentanyl to teenagers, fueling our Nation's drug epidemic.

The list goes on and on.

For years, my colleagues and I on the Senate Commerce Committee and on the Judiciary Committee have listened to parents; we have cried with parents; we have held them close—parents from across the country who have lost their children to online harms. For years, we have heard excuse after excuse after excuse from Big Tech CEOs about these tragedies that are happening every single day, but they don't do anything about it. The excuses go on and on. They know what is happening, but they choose profit over protecting our kids.

It cannot go on any longer. So, today, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have reintroduced the bipartisan Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, as we know it. This is crucial legislation. This is the legislation that will hold Big Tech accountable and make certain that parents and kids have the tools, the safeguards, and the transparency they need for young people to be protected in the virtual space.

Among its provisions, the legislation will create a duty of care for online platforms to prevent specific threats to minors, including sexual abuse, illicit drugs, and the promotion of suicide and eating disorders. Bear in mind, the responsibility is on the online platform, and the duty of care would only apply to product features like algorithms, not content, meaning that KOSA would safeguard free speech while protecting our children.

In many ways, KOSA is common sense. We have many protections for children in the physical world. Yet, if children are unable to buy alcohol or go to a strip club in the physical world, why do we allow them to be exposed to harms in the virtual space? They are exposed to these same harms 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Parents know that there are just as many dangers lurking online and sometimes even more than there are in the real world, which is why 86 percent of Americans support KOSA.

The legislation enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support. How often do we see legislation that can pass through the Senate with a 91-to-3 vote like KOSA did last year in this Chamber? It has also received endorsements from stakeholders across the board, including from child safety advocates, pediatricians, and tech companies like X, Microsoft, Snap, and Apple, which announced its support today.

In the weeks ahead, we are going to work with our colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that this vital legislation makes it to President Trump's desk. When it does, the President will have a generational opportunity to secure a brighter future for children across the country. Their lives depend on the ability of us to act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1749. A bill to prohibit United States Government recognition of the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1749

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 "No United States Recognition of Russian Sovereignty Over Crimea or Any Other Forcibly Seized Ukrainian Territory".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST UNITED STATES RECOGNITION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER CRIMEA.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States not to recognize the Government of the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea or any other forcibly seized Ukrainian territory, including any related airspace or territorial waters.

(b) PROHIBITION.—In accordance with subsection (a), no Federal department or agency may take any action, extend any non-humanitarian assistance, or spend any funds that implies recognition of the Government of the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea or any other forcibly seized Ukrainian territory, unless any such claim is formally recognized by the democratically elected Government of Ukraine.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 225—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2025, AS "NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK"

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 225

Whereas 3,500,000 individuals in the United States navigate the roads and highways of the United States as professional truck drivers;

Whereas the trucking industry is the backbone of the economy of the United States, and truck drivers play an essential role in moving the United States forward;

Whereas the quality of life that the people of the United States enjoy would not be possible without the steadfast dedication demonstrated by truck drivers;

Whereas truckers of the United States drive over 330,000,000 miles each year, the equivalent of nearly 1,800 round trips to the sun, to deliver daily necessities and other consumer goods;

Whereas truck drivers make many sacrifices, including time away from their families, to fulfill their important responsibilities and get shipments where they need to be on time, safely, and securely;

Whereas truck drivers transport more than 11,000,000,000 tons of freight each year, which is about 70 percent of all the freight moved in the United States;

Whereas more than 80 percent of United States communities rely exclusively on truck drivers to deliver their commodities, including the most remote towns and territories that are unreachable by other modes of transportation;

Whereas the commitment of truck drivers ensures the delivery of vital public services, such as medical supplies, food distribution, and emergency relief during crises, making truck drivers indispensable to the well-being of the United States;

Whereas truck drivers play an essential role in maintaining national security by transporting critical military equipment, supplies, and personnel in support of defense operations, ensuring the readiness and mobility of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas hundreds of billions of safe driving miles accumulated by truck drivers each year are a source of pride and reflect the unique skills of truck drivers and their commitment to excellence; and

Whereas the diligence and attention to detail displayed by truck drivers is critical to protecting the safety of all roadway users: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of September 14 through September 20, 2025, as "National Truck Driver Appreciation Week".

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR ENGAGING IN TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SUL-LIVAN, and Mr. CURTIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 226

Whereas transnational repression refers to actions by foreign governments that cross national borders to intimidate, silence, coerce, or harm individuals, including members of diaspora and exile communities, in order to suppress dissent and control political expression;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China, as the world's most prolific perpetrator of transnational repression, is carrying out a coordinated campaign to surveil, harass, threaten, and coerce individuals living abroad, including people who are lawfully residing in the United States;

Whereas these actions have targeted political dissidents, human rights defenders, and ethnic and religious communities, including Uyghurs, Tibetans, and Hongkongers;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China's efforts to intimidate and control individuals residing in the United States, often through covert operations or unregistered agents, constitute a violation of United States sovereignty and an affront to the rule of law; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China, in coordination with local authorities, has also sought to exert pressure by harassing, threatening, or unlawfully detaining the family members of such individuals who are still residing in the People's Republic of China or regions controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and by engaging in other acts of harassment targeting such family members, including the confiscation of property, freezing of financial assets, and cancellation of passports to restrict freedom of movement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—