

intent of the Government of the Russian Federation to erase the Ukrainian nation and identity;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has changed its adoption laws since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 for the purpose of forcibly adopting children abducted from Ukraine in order to raise them as Russian citizens, erased of their Ukrainian names, language, and identity;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, Russian authorities announced that children born in occupied Ukrainian territories after the February 24, 2022, invasion will be deemed Russian citizens, in violation of Ukrainian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention;

Whereas the Department of State's 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report found that Russia recruits or uses child soldiers as defined under the Child Soldiers Prevention Act, is documented as having a state-sponsored policy or pattern of human trafficking, and is among the worst hubs for human trafficking in the world;

Whereas the United States has sanctioned at least 32 individuals and three entities of the Russian Federation and its occupying forces and the Republic of Belarus for being involved in the abduction and re-education of Ukrainian children and human rights violations of Ukrainian minors;

Whereas Maria Lvova-Belova, Children's Rights Commissioner for the President of Russia, admitted to abducting and forcibly transferring Ukrainian children and facilitating forced adoptions to Russian families;

Whereas the unlawful deportation or transfer of protected people constitutes a grave breach of the Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, Article 147, done at Geneva August 12, 1949;

Whereas forcibly transferring children of one group to another group is a violation of Article II(e) of the Genocide Convention, of which the Russian Federation is a party; and

Whereas hundreds of thousands of children still reside in the occupied territories of Ukraine, where they face attempts at Russification by occupation authorities; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation's abduction, forcible transfer, and facilitation of the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children;

(2) notes with concern that the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has significantly increased the risks of children being exposed to human trafficking and exploitation, child labor, sexual violence, hunger, injury, trauma, deprivation of education and shelter, and death;

(3) supports bringing the war in Ukraine to a peaceful and just conclusion; and

(4) urges that all Ukrainian children abducted by the Government of the Russian Federation be returned before finalizing any peace agreement.

SENATE RESOLUTION 237—HONORING THE SERVICE AND MEMORY OF ARMY STAFF SGT. JOSE DUEÑEZ JR., ARMY STAFF SGT. EDVIN F. FRANCO, ARMY STAFF SGT. TROY S. KNUTSON-COLLINS, AND ARMY PFC. DANTE D. TAITANO OF THE 1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION, WHO DIED DURING A RECOVERY MISSION IN SUPPORT OF A REGULARLY SCHEDULED TRAINING EXERCISE WHILE SERVING IN LITHUANIA

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 237

Whereas four United States soldiers, Army Staff Sgt. Jose Dueñez Jr., Army Staff Sgt. Edvin F. Franco, Army Staff Sgt. Troy S. Knutson-Collins, and Army Pfc. Dante D. Taitano, were all members of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team of the 3rd Infantry Division stationed at Pabrade training ground, Lithuania, since February 2025;

Whereas these four United States soldiers were part of a rotational deployment of 3,500 members of the United States Armed Forces as part of the United States-led NATO Operation Atlantic Resolve to enhance deterrence along the NATO alliance's eastern flank;

Whereas the bodies of these four United States soldiers were found on March 31 and April 1, 2025, after a tragic accident while conducting a mission to repair and tow an immobilized vehicle when their heavy recovery vehicle sank in a bog;

Whereas the accident triggered a complex and weeklong recovery effort with hundreds of allied United States, Lithuanian, Polish, and Estonian personnel and equipment to finally extract them from the mud;

Whereas in the spirit of allied solidarity, thousands of Lithuanians, including Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda, joined a farewell ceremony on April 3, 2025, in a moving gesture to mourn the deaths of these four United States soldiers before their bodies were returned to the United States;

Whereas Staff Sgt. Dueñez Jr., 25, of Joliet, Illinois, was a M1 Abrams tank system maintainer with more than seven years in the Army, whose decorations included the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, and National Defense Service Medal;

Whereas Staff Sgt. Franco, 25, of Glendale, California, was a M1 Abrams tank system maintainer who served in the Army for more than six years, whose awards and decorations included the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal; and Global War on Terror Service Medal;

Whereas Staff Sgt. Knutson-Collins, 28, of Battle Creek, Michigan, was an artillery mechanic with more than seven years in the Army whose awards and decorations included the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Master Technician Badge;

Whereas Pfc. Taitano, 21, of Dededo, Guam, was a M1 Abrams tank system maintainer

who served in the Army for nearly two years and was the recipient of the Army Commendation Medal; and

Whereas these four United States soldiers served with distinction, upheld the highest traditions of the United States Army, and were part of a critical allied NATO mission to protect freedom from Russian aggression: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory and service of Army Staff Sgt. Jose Dueñez Jr., Army Staff Sgt. Edvin F. Franco, Army Staff Sgt. Troy S. Knutson-Collins, and Army Pfc. Dante D. Taitano for their dedicated service to the United States and its NATO allies;

(2) expresses gratitude for the hundreds of brave United States, Lithuanian, Polish, and Estonian personnel involved in a complex effort to recover the remains of Army Staff Sgt. Jose Dueñez Jr., Army Staff Sgt. Edvin F. Franco, Army Staff Sgt. Troy S. Knutson-Collins, and Army Pfc. Dante D. Taitano;

(3) recognizes the outpouring of nationwide sentiment by the people of Lithuania in appreciation of the heroism of these four United States soldiers and the continuing close alliance of their nation with the United States; and

(4) reaffirms the importance of continued Western leadership in enhancing deterrence in the Baltic region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 238—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 26TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 11 THROUGH MAY 17, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. HUSTED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 238

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach their potential for academic success;

Whereas high-quality public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for the children of those families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high-performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held accountable by the authorizers of the public charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set high expectations for students to ensure that the public charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 45 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico have public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2021 to 2022 school year, approximately 8,000 public charter schools served approximately 3,700,000 children in the United States;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 660,000 students in 2002, to 3,700,000 students in 2021, a more than five-fold increase in 20 years;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) in 270 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in at least 26 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas high-quality public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2023 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students from low-income backgrounds in public charter schools, and when compared to peers in traditional public schools, each year those students completed the equivalent of 16 more days of learning in reading and 6 more days of learning in math; and

Whereas the 26th Annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 11 through May 17, 2025; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, leaders, and staff of public charter schools across the United States for—

(A) making ongoing contributions to public education;

(B) making impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly in schools with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system throughout the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 26th Annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 11 through May 17, 2025, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, cere-

monies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for high-quality public charter schools.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2228. Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2229. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2230. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2231. Mr. SCHIFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2232. Mr. SCHIFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2233. Mr. SCHIFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2234. Mr. SCHIFF submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2235. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2228. Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 4(c), add at the end the following:

(8) EXPEDITED CERTIFICATIONS OF EXISTING REGULATORY REGIMES.—The Stablecoin Certification Review Committee shall take all necessary steps to endeavor that, with respect to a State that, within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, has in effect a prudential regulatory regime (including regulations and guidance) for the supervision of digital assets or payment stablecoins, the certification process under this paragraph with respect to that regime occurs on an expedited timeline after the effective date of this Act.

SA 2229. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . COMPETITION IN CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Credit Card Competition Act of 2025”.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—Section 921 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693o-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) COMPETITION IN CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS.—

“(A) NO EXCLUSIVE NETWORK.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Credit Card Competition Act of 2025, the Board shall prescribe regulations providing that a covered card issuer or payment card network shall not directly or through any agent, processor, or licensed member of a payment card network, by contract, requirement, condition, penalty, technological specification, or otherwise, restrict the number of payment card networks on which an electronic credit transaction may be processed to—

“(I) 1 such network;

“(II) 2 or more such networks, if—

“(aa) each such network is owned, controlled, or otherwise operated by—

“(AA) affiliated persons; or

“(BB) networks affiliated with such issuer; or

“(bb) any such network is identified on the list established and updated under subparagraph (D); or

“(III) subject to clause (ii), the 2 such networks that hold the 2 largest market shares with respect to the number of credit cards issued in the United States by licensed members of such networks (and enabled to be processed through such networks), as determined by the Board on the date on which the Board prescribes the regulations.

“(ii) DETERMINATIONS BY BOARD.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Board, not later than 3 years after the date on which the regulations prescribed under clause (i) take effect, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, shall determine whether the 2 networks identified under clause (i)(III) have changed, as compared with the most recent such determination by the Board.

“(II) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION.—If the Board, under subclause (I), determines that the 2 networks described in clause (i)(III) have changed (as compared with the most recent such determination by the Board), clause (i)(III) shall no longer have any force or effect.

“(B) NO ROUTING RESTRICTIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Credit Card Competition Act of 2025, the Board shall prescribe regulations providing that a covered card issuer or payment card network shall not—

“(i) directly or through any agent, processor, or licensed member of the network, by contract, requirement, condition, penalty, or otherwise—

“(I) inhibit the ability of any person who accepts credit cards for payments to direct the routing of electronic credit transactions for processing over any payment card network that—

“(aa) may process such transactions; and

“(bb) is not on the list established and updated by the Board under subparagraph (D);

“(II) require any person who accepts credit cards for payments to exclusively use, for transactions associated with a particular credit card, an authentication, tokenization, or other security technology that cannot be used by all of the payment card networks that may process electronic credit transactions for that particular credit card; or

“(III) inhibit the ability of another payment card network to handle or process electronic credit transactions using an authentication, tokenization, or other security technology for the processing of those electronic credit transactions; or