

members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre at Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, coast guard sailors from the People's Republic of China brandished knives and other weapons in a clash with Philippine naval vessels attempting to resupply marines on Second Thomas Shoal, resulting in a severe injury to a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

Whereas, on August 27, 2024, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel Paparo, said the United States military is open to consultations with the Philippines about escorting Philippine ships delivering food and other supplies to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the South China Sea;

Whereas, on December 4, 2024, Chinese Coast Guard and PLA Navy vessels conducted dangerous maneuvers near Scarborough Shoal, deploying water cannons against Philippine Coast Guard vessels;

Whereas, on February 18, 2025, a Chinese PLA Navy helicopter flew as close as 3 meters above a Philippine aircraft conducting a routine flight over Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas in March 2025, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth visited the Philippines for his first trip to an Indo-Pacific partner, and committed to deploy additional advanced military capabilities to the Philippines, conduct bilateral training between both nations for high-end operations, prioritize bilateral defense industrial cooperation, and launch a bilateral cyber campaign;

Whereas, in April 2025, the Chinese Coast Guard temporarily deployed on Sandy Cay, an unoccupied reef located two miles from Manila's largest outpost in the South China Sea, and placed a Chinese flag, indicating an intention to annex, expand, and possibly militarize the feature;

Whereas, in May 2025, the United States and the Philippines conducted Exercise Balikatan 2025, the largest-ever iteration in its 40-year history that included participation by more than 14,000 U.S., Filipino, Australian, and Japanese service members as well as the first deployment of the Navy-Marine Expeditionary Ship Interdiction System (NMESIS);

Whereas, on August 11, 2025, a China Coast Guard vessel executed a dangerous maneuver and collided with a Chinese Navy vessel as it was harassing a Philippine Coast Guard vessel conducting a humanitarian mission within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone at Scarborough Shoal; and

Whereas August 30, 2025, marked the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 74th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines and the longstanding alliance between our two nations;

(2) appreciates the trust of the Philippine people in the bilateral alliance and their support for increased defense cooperation and United States military presence in the Philippines;

(3) acknowledges the determination of the people and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resist coercion by the People's Republic of China;

(4) condemns the People's Republic of China's unprovoked aggression and political lawfare in the South China Sea to enforce its unlawful territorial and sovereignty claims;

(5) rejects the People's Republic of China's coercive and destabilizing plans to establish a so-called "national nature reserve" at Scarborough Reef;

(6) reaffirms that Article IV of the Mutual Defense Treaty extends to armed attacks on the Armed Forces, public vessels, or aircraft of the Philippines, including the Philippine Coast Guard, anywhere in the South China Sea;

(7) considers aggression by the People's Republic of China in the Philippines' internationally recognized exclusive economic zone to be a direct assault on its sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(8) urges the President to continue to take appropriate and necessary actions in response to escalatory behavior of the People's Republic of China in order to restore deterrence and help the Philippines defend itself;

(9) supports the unwavering commitment of the United States to deepening security cooperation with the Philippines, including advancing Philippine defense modernization and enhancing interoperability through military exercises, training, joint patrols, and increased information sharing;

(10) supports other nations growing their political and security partnerships with the Philippines;

(11) commits to advance cooperation among the United States, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, and Australia; and

(12) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the right to freedom of navigation and overflight, respecting maritime rights under international law, and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 410—CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO RECOGNIZE A DEMILITARIZED STATE OF PALESTINE, AS CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE PRINCIPLES OF A TWO-STATE SOLUTION, ALONGSIDE A SECURE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 410

Whereas, in 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 181, calling for the partition of Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, with international recognition;

Whereas, in 1967, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 242, establishing the concept of "land for peace";

Whereas, in 1988, the Palestine National Council formally declared the establishment of the State of Palestine, which the United Nations General Assembly acknowledged in subsequent resolutions;

Whereas, in 2012, the United Nations General Assembly voted to grant Palestine non-member observer state status based on pre-1967 borders;

Whereas over 140 of the 193 United Nations member states currently recognize Palestinian statehood, including major United States allies;

Whereas administrations of both political parties in the United States have long affirmed that a negotiated two-state solution is the only viable path to an enduring peace in the region;

Whereas acts of terrorism and violence by Hamas and other terrorist groups, as well as their rejection of the State of Israel as a national homeland for the Jewish people, obstruct prospects for peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians;

Whereas the holding of free, fair, and inclusive Palestinian elections is essential for re-

newing legitimacy, national unity, and paving the way for meaningful negotiations toward an enduring two-state solution;

Whereas actions and policies by the Government of Israel rejecting a two-state solution, including the July 2024 vote in the Knesset declaring opposition to Palestinian statehood, intentional expansion of settlements in the West Bank, proposals of annexation, and the deepening of the occupation, further undermine prospects for peace and regional security;

Whereas key Arab countries in the Middle East, most notably the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, have expressed a willingness to normalize diplomatic and economic relations with the State of Israel if there is a clear and irreversible pathway towards Palestinian statehood;

Whereas the July 29, 2025, New York Declaration led by France and Saudi Arabia along with a number of key Arab and European countries condemned the October 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas, insisted that Hamas must not govern Gaza after the war, and reaffirmed their commitment to the recognition of a Palestinian state;

Whereas, in an August 30, 2025 letter, Palestinian Vice President Hussein al-Sheikh wrote to Secretary of State Rubio that the Palestinian Authority (PA) is "committed to peace, non-violence, and the principle of one authority, one government, one law, and one legitimate security force, and confirmed PA commitment for a demilitarized state"; and

Whereas failure to advance a two-state solution risks entrenching an unacceptable permanent occupation, further destabilizing the region, and undermining United States interests and values: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the President to recognize a demilitarized State of Palestine, as consistent with international law and the principles of a two-state solution, alongside a secure State of Israel;

(2) reaffirms that a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in mutual recognition and dignity, must provide for Israel's security and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;

(3) urges the Palestinian Authority to follow through on commitments it has made to European partners as part of the recognition process, hold elections in 2026 and continue implementing key reforms to ensure there is democratic legitimacy in securing self-determination for the Palestinian people;

(4) recognizes that the current trajectory of settlement expansion, annexation, rejection of Palestinian statehood, and ongoing violence and acts of terrorism is incompatible with peace and must end;

(5) believes there is a historic opportunity to simultaneously pursue a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a comprehensive regional peace between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors, unlocking the potential for a more secure and prosperous Middle East;

(6) calls on Hamas to end its campaign of terrorism, lay down its arms, and provide for the unconditional release of all hostages, and also calls on Israel to take immediate steps to end the war in Gaza and surge humanitarian aid into the territory; and

(7) calls upon Israeli and Palestinian leaders, together with the Arab world and international community, to begin working on post-conflict security, governance, and reconstruction that leads to a comprehensive peace agreement with Israel at peace with all of its neighbors, including the State of Palestine.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 411—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, AS “NATIONAL HAZING AWARENESS WEEK”**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

**S. RES. 411**

Whereas hazing is any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another person regardless of the willingness of that person to participate, that—

(1) is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in a student organization; and

(2) causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury;

Whereas 55 percent of college students involved in extracurricular clubs, athletic teams, and organizations reported experiencing hazing;

Whereas a hazing prevention policy is vital to help shape expectations for safe campus communities where healthy group behaviors, ethical leadership, and feelings of positive well-being and belonging are fostered;

Whereas the Stop Campus Hazing Act (Public Law 118-173; 138 Stat. 2597) was signed into law in December 2024 to enhance hazing prevention efforts on college campuses by requiring institutions of higher education to include hazing incidents in their annual security reports, provide hazing prevention education, and report findings of responsibility for campus hazing policy violations in a Campus Hazing Transparency Report, thereby ensuring greater transparency and accountability in addressing hazing nationwide;

Whereas it is recommended that hazing prevention education is broad and includes students, campus staff, administrators, faculty, alumni, and beyond;

Whereas hundreds of students have died as a result of collegiate hazing, including Kristin High on September 9, 2002, Kenitha Saafir on September 9, 2002, Clay Warren on September 21, in 2002, Lynn Gordon “Gordie” Bailey, Jr., on September 17, 2004, Matthew Carrington on February 2, 2005, Gary Louis DeVercelly, Jr. on March 30, 2007, Brett Griffin on November 8, 2008, Harrison Kowiak on November 18, 2008, Michael Anthony Smallwood Starks on November 21, 2008, Carson Leonard Starkey on December 2, 2008, George Desdunes on February 25, 2011, Robert Darnell Champmon on November 19, 2011, Robert Eugene Tipton Jr. on March 26, 2012, David R. Bogenberger on November 2, 2012, Marvell Edmonson on April 20, 2013, Jauwan M. Holmes on April 20, 2013, Marquise Braham on March 14, 2014, Dalton Debrick on August 24, 2014, Tucker W. Hipps on September 22, 2014, Nolan Michael Burch on November 14, 2014, Timothy J. Piazza on February 4, 2017, Maxwell “Max” Raymond Gruver on September 14, 2017, Andrew Coffey on November 3, 2017, Alexander Levi Rainey Beletsis on June 20, 2018, Nicholas “Nicky” Antonio Cumberland on October 30, 2018, Collin Wiant on November 12, 2018, Noah Caleb Domingo on January 12, 2019, Bea Castro on March 17, 2019, Justin King on Sep-

tember 14, 2019, Antonio “Anthony” Tsialas on October 24, 2019, Samuel “Sam” Martinez on November 12, 2019, Adam Jeffrey Oakes on February 27, 2021, Stone Justin Foltz on March 7, 2021, Lofton Hazelwood on October 18, 2021, Phat Anh Nguyen on November 20, 2021, Luke Tyler on January 22, 2023, and Caleb Wilson on February 27, 2025;

Whereas students have suffered severe, life-altering injuries as a result of collegiate hazing, including Danny Santulli on October 19, 2021; and

Whereas hazing has a lasting, harmful, and deadly impact, and preventing hazing must be prioritized: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 22 through September 26, 2025, as “National Hazing Awareness Week”;

(2) acknowledges hazing prevention is not limited to a single week of awareness but is an ongoing commitment; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Hazing Awareness Week through promoting hazing awareness and prevention.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 412—AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was placed on the executive calendar:

**S. RES. 412**

*Resolved*, That it shall be in order to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

(1) Calendar Number 62: Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2031 (Reappointment).

(2) Calendar Number 86: James Baehr, of Louisiana, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) Calendar Number 92: Patrick David Davis, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(4) Calendar Number 126: Leah Campos, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

(5) Calendar Number 127: Brandon Judd, of Idaho, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

(6) Calendar Number 128: Joseph Popolo, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

(7) Calendar Number 143: Catherine Jereza, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity).

(8) Calendar Number 155: Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(9) Calendar Number 158: David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

(10) Calendar Number 159: Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

(11) Calendar Number 160: David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service.

(12) Calendar Number 163: Devon Westhill, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

(13) Calendar Number 164: Kirsten Baesler, of North Dakota, to be Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

(14) Calendar Number 168: Wayne Palmer, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

(15) Calendar Number 169: Julie Hocker, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(16) Calendar Number 170: Marco Rajkovich, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2030 (Reappointment)

(17) Calendar Number 178: John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency.

(18) Calendar Number 181: Stanley Woodward, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Attorney General.

(19) Calendar Number 196: Janet Dhillon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of 5 years.

(20) Calendar Number 252: David Keeling, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(21) Calendar Number 253: Kimberly Richey, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

(22) Calendar Number 255: Jonathan Berry, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

(23) Calendar Number 256: Andrew Rogers, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

(24) Calendar Number 265: Marc Andersen, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

(25) Calendar Number 268: James Woodruff II, of Florida, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of 7 years expiring March 1, 2032.

(26) Calendar Number 270: Kevin Rhodes, of Florida, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy.

(27) Calendar Number 272: Usha-Maria Turner, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(28) Calendar Number 275: Hung Cao, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

(29) Calendar Number 284: John Dever, of Illinois, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(30) Calendar Number 299: Joseph Barloon, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

(31) Calendar Number 300: Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

(32) Calendar Number 304: Craig Trainor, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(33) Calendar Number 306: Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

(34) Calendar Number 307: David Peters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(35) Calendar Number 310: Mary Riley, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education.

(36) Calendar Number 311: Brian Christine, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(37) Calendar Number 312: Jonathan Snare, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2029.

(38) Calendar Number 313: David Brian Castillo, of Washington, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor.

(39) Calendar Number 314: David Barker, of Iowa, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

(40) Calendar Number 315: Brittany Panuccio, of Florida, to be a Member of the