

military aircraft intercepted two Russian Tu-95 long-range strategic bombers and two Su-35 fighter jets flying in the Alaskan Air Defense Identification Zone: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Russian incursions into the territory and airspace of NATO member countries;

(2) condemns Russia's continued assault on Ukraine, kidnapping of Ukrainian children, and refusal to negotiate an end to the war it started; and

(3) reaffirms NATO's Article 5 commitment to collective self-defense.

SENATE RESOLUTION 443—EX-PRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE GROWING PROBLEM OF BOOK BANNING, AND THE PROLIFERATION OF THREATS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 443

Whereas the overwhelming majority of voters in the United States oppose book bans;

Whereas an overwhelming majority of voters in the United States support educators teaching about the civil rights movement, the history and experiences of Native Americans, enslaved Africans, immigrants facing discrimination, and the ongoing effects of racism;

Whereas an overwhelming majority of Americans are confident that the public schools of their communities select appropriate books for students to read;

Whereas, in 1969, the Supreme Court of the United States held in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969), that students do not “shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate”;

Whereas, in 1982, a plurality of the Supreme Court of the United States wrote in *Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico*, 457 U.S. 853 (1982), that schools may not remove library books based on “narrowly partisan or political grounds”, as this kind of censorship will result in “official suppression of ideas”;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects freedom of speech and the freedom to read and write;

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

Whereas PEN America has identified 6,870 instances of individual books banned between July 2024 and June 2025;

Whereas books banned between July 2024 and June 2025 include 3,751 unique titles, censoring the works of 2,589 authors, illustrators, and translators;

Whereas the majority of book bans were enacted without following the best practice guidelines for book challenges outlined by the American Library Association, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and the National Council of Teachers of English;

Whereas the unimpeded exchange of ideas and the freedom to read are essential to a strong democracy;

Whereas books do not require readers to agree with topics, themes, or viewpoints, but instead allow readers to explore and engage with differing perspectives to form and inform their own views;

Whereas suppressing the freedom to read and denying access to literature, history, and knowledge are repressive and anti-democratic tactics used by authoritarian regimes against their people;

Whereas book bans violate the rights of students, families, residents, and citizens based on the political, ideological, and cultural preferences of the specific individuals or groups imposing the bans;

Whereas book bans have multifaceted, harmful consequences on—

(1) students, who have a right to access a diverse range of stories and perspectives, especially students from historically marginalized backgrounds whose communities are often targeted by thought control measures;

(2) educators and librarians, who are operating in some States in an increasingly punitive and surveillance-oriented environment and experience a chilling effect in their work;

(3) authors whose works are targeted and suppressed;

(4) parents who want their children to attend public schools that remain open to curiosity, discovery, and the freedom to read; and

(5) community members who want free access to a range of uncensored information and knowledge from their public libraries;

Whereas classic and award-winning literature and books that have been part of school curricula for decades have been challenged, removed from libraries pending review, or outright banned from schools, including—

(1) “*Brave New World*” by Aldous Huxley;

(2) “*The Handmaid’s Tale*” by Margaret Atwood;

(3) “*Anne Frank’s Diary: The Graphic Adaptation*” adapted by Ari Folman;

(4) “*Their Eyes Were Watching God*” by Zora Neal Hurston; and

(5) “*To Kill a Mockingbird*” by Harper Lee;

Whereas books, particularly those written by and about outsiders, newcomers, and individuals from marginalized backgrounds, are facing a heightened risk of being banned;

Whereas, according to PEN America, a disproportionate number of books banned or otherwise restricted in the United States have LGBTQ+ characters or themes that recognize the equal humanity and dignity of all individuals despite differences, including—

(1) “*And Tango Makes Three*” by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell; and

(2) “*This Book Is Gay*” by Juno Dawson;

Whereas many books, both fiction and non-fiction, that have been targeted for bans or restrictions in the United States are books about race or racism, or that feature characters of color, including—

(1) “*The Story of Ruby Bridges*” by Robert Coles and illustrated by George Ford;

(2) “*Letter from Birmingham Jail*” by Martin Luther King Jr.;

(3) “*Thank You, Jackie Robinson*” by Barbara Cohen;

(4) “*Malala: A Hero For All*” by Shana Corey;

(5) “*Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*” by Kevin Noble Maillard;

(6) “*Hair Love*” by Matthew A. Cherry;

(7) “*Good Trouble: Lessons From the Civil Rights Playbook*” by Christopher Noxon; and

(8) “*We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures*” by Amnesty International;

Whereas the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund has reported a dramatic surge in challenges at libraries and schools to the inclusion of graphic novels that depict the diversity of civic life in the United States and the painful and complex history of racism, homophobia, Anti-Asian bias, and anti-semitism embedded in the human experience, including—

(1) “*New Kid*” by Jerry Craft;

(2) “*Maus*” by Art Spiegelman;

(3) “*American Born Chinese*” by Gene Luen Yang; and

(4) “*Drama*” by Raina Telgemeier;

Whereas books addressing death, grief, mental illness, and suicide are targeted alongside nonfiction books that discuss feelings and emotions written for teenage and young adult audiences that frequently confront these topics;

Whereas, during congressional hearings on April 7, 2022, May 19, 2022, and September 12, 2023, students, parents, teachers, librarians, and school administrators testified to the chilling and fear-spreading effects that book bans have on education and the school environment;

Whereas, since 2021, State legislation censoring certain content within schools and libraries has been enacted across the country, resulting in nearly 23,000 book bans;

Whereas an increasing amount of book censorship goes unreported and may be higher than is currently reported due to mass removals implementing vaguely-written State legislation and a lack of transparency about district-based removals;

Whereas, according to PEN America, from July 2024 to June 2025, 23 States across the country limited access to certain books for limited or indefinite periods of time, including—

(1) Florida, where at least 2,304 books have been banned or restricted in 33 school districts;

(2) Texas, where at least 1,781 books have been banned or restricted in 7 school districts;

(3) Tennessee, where at least 1,622 books have been banned or restricted in 8 school districts;

(4) Idaho, where at least 150 books have been banned or restricted in 1 school district; and

(5) Iowa, where at least 113 books have been banned or restricted in 4 school districts;

Whereas the President of the United States has repeatedly expressed support for the censorship of certain subjects such as gender, sexuality, and race through public statements and executive orders;

Whereas, following executive orders, Department of Defense Education Activity (referred to in this preamble as “DoDEA”) schools removed books related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, “gender ideology”, and anything that would suggest “that America’s founding documents are racist or sexist”, resulting in the censorship of classroom instruction and student activities, as well as the removal of at least 596 books in DoDEA schools;

Whereas, following the same executive orders, the Department of Defense directed all military academies to identify and remove books from their libraries that include themes related to race, “gender ideology”, and other “divisive concepts” that the Administration considers “incompatible with the department’s core mission”, which led to the temporary removal of nearly 400 books

from the Nimitz Library of the United States Naval Academy, including "I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou;

Whereas at least 20 books remain suspended from the shelves of the United States Naval Academy;

Whereas grants administered by the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and other Federal agencies have been terminated or revoked for using language related to race, gender, and LGBTQ+ identity or addressing social inequality; and

Whereas the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education has claimed book bans are a "hoax," ended investigations of alleged discrimination related to book banning, and fired the staff person in charge of addressing the book banning crisis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferating threats to freedom of expression in the United States;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting the freedom of expression of writers that is protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution and the freedom of all individuals in the United States to read books without government censorship;

(3) calls on local governments and school districts to follow best practice guidelines when addressing challenges to books;

(4) calls on local governments and school districts to protect the rights of students to learn and the ability of educators and librarians to teach, including by providing students with the opportunity to read a wide array of books reflecting the full breadth and diversity of viewpoints and perspectives;

(5) calls for the return of all books removed from Department of Defense schools and libraries under executive orders since January 2025; and

(6) calls for the repeal of executive orders and rescission of directives that have enacted content-based and viewpoint-based restrictions on the freedom to read and learn in United States public schools and libraries.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3927. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3928. Mr. GALLEGRO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3927.** Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Depart-

ment of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

#### SEC. 1067. IDENTIFICATION OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ENGAGED IN CROWD CONTROL.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Federal law enforcement officer" means—

(A) an employee or officer in a position in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government who is authorized by law to engage in or supervise a law enforcement function; or

(B) an employee or officer of a contractor or subcontractor (at any tier) of an agency in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government who is authorized by law or under the contract with the agency to engage in or supervise a law enforcement function;

(2) the term "law enforcement function" means the prevention, detection, or investigation of, or the prosecution or incarceration of any person for, any violation of law; and

(3) the term "member of an armed force" means a member of any of the armed forces, as defined in section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, or a member of the National Guard, as defined in section 101(3) of title 32, United States Code.

(b) REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal law enforcement officer or member of an armed force who is engaged in any form of crowd control, riot control, or arrest or detention of individuals engaged in an act of civil disobedience, demonstration, protest, other activity protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or riot in the United States shall at all times display identifying information in a clearly visible fashion, which shall include—

(A) for a Federal law enforcement officer, the Federal agency and the last name or unique identifier of the officer; and

(B) for a member of an armed force, the service branch and the last name or unique identifier of the member.

(2) PROHIBITION ON COVERING OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—A Federal law enforcement officer or member of an armed force may not tape over or otherwise obscure or conceal the identifying information required under paragraph (1) while the officer or member is engaged in any form of law enforcement activity described in paragraph (1).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(1) provide any new authority or expand existing authority for members of an armed force to engage in law enforcement activity; or

(2) affect existing law regarding the deployment of members of an armed force for law enforcement activity.

**SA 3928.** Mr. GALLEGRO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 922, add the following:

(h) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a pilot program for de-

ploying microreactors at United States military installations to strengthen energy resilience and reduce reliance on vulnerable civilian grids.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 3:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an open hearing on nominations.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Shane Reader,