

was added as a cosponsor of S. 2687, a bill to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council.

S. 3071

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3071, a bill to appropriate funds to ensure uninterrupted benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program and the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

S. 3074

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3074, a bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to reimburse State agencies for costs incurred in carrying out the supplemental nutrition assistance program during a lapse in appropriations.

S. 3141

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3141, a bill to prohibit Executive agencies from carrying out a reduction in force, or any similar effort, during any period during which there is a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 3143

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3143, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3144

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 3147

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 3147, a bill to provide for continuing appropriations for Head Start programs.

S.J. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 82, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Pol-

icy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act".

S. RES. 490

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 490, a resolution affirming the critical importance of preserving the United States' advantage in artificial intelligence and ensuring that the United States achieves and maintains artificial intelligence dominance.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 491—RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF CONTINUOUS OPERATIONS OF STARS AND STRIPES IN THE PACIFIC AND THE INVALUABLE SERVICE OF THE STARS AND STRIPES AS THE "HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER" FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES, AND FAMILY MEMBERS STATIONED AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. GALLEGO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 491

Whereas May 14, 2025, marked the 80th anniversary of the commencement of continuous operations, in service to the military community of the United States, of *Stars and Stripes* in the Pacific, a military newspaper established in Honolulu to provide an independent, uncensored news source for members of the Armed Forces fighting in World War II;

Whereas *Stars and Stripes* was heralded for indispensable service when it was initially established during the Civil War and again during World War I, when General John J. Pershing reestablished *Stars and Stripes* to provide news and information as an important morale-building force for soldiers serving in the American Expeditionary Forces;

Whereas after its permanent formation during World War II, *Stars and Stripes* commenced printing in Tokyo on October 3, 1945, working in requisitioned space formally occupied by the *Japan Times*, and excelled in its mission across every theater of war, leading President Harry S. Truman to state, "In Africa, Europe, and the Pacific, *Stars and Stripes* has established itself as a cherished and important soldier's institution";

Whereas *Stars and Stripes* has continuously covered news "about the military, for the military" in conflicts since World War II, including conflicts taking place in Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan;

Whereas while readership of newspapers has declined in recent years as technology has evolved, *Stars and Stripes* has innovated in finding new ways and products to deliver the "hometown news" to the broadest portion of military community; and

Whereas through internet versions of the newspaper, social media, and other media products, *Stars and Stripes* is now reaching 1,400,000 readers every day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the commencement of continuous operations of *Stars and Stripes* in the Pacific—

(1) commemorates this important milestone in the history of an important institution of the United States; and

(2) congratulates and honors the men and women of *Stars and Stripes*, past and present, who have so diligently served the United States military community.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3934. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 463, expressing condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious minority groups, including Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists and the detention of Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri and leaders of the Zion Church, and reaffirming the United States' global commitment to promote religious freedom and tolerance.

SA 3935. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 463, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3934. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 463, expressing condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious minority groups, including Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists and the detention of Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri and leaders of the Zion Church, and reaffirming the United States' global commitment to promote religious freedom and tolerance; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:
That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious minority groups, including Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri and other leaders and members of Zion Church and other faith communities;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote religious freedom and tolerance around the world and to help provide protection and relief to religious minorities facing persecution and violence;

(3) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all detained members of Zion Church, including Pastor Jin, and all other wrongfully detained religious practitioners in China;

(4) calls for the Government of the People's Republic of China to cease its harassment and intimidation of the relatives of Zion Church members and their relatives, including tactics of transnational repression overseas;

(5) calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to release all other arbitrarily detained religious believers, including Uyghur Muslims, Tibetan Buddhists, and other Christians; and

(6) demands that the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) respect the internationally recognized human right to freedom of religion or belief; and

(B) end all forms of violence and discrimination against religious minority groups and entities.

SA 3935. Mr. CRUZ proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 463, expressing condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious minority groups, including Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists and the detention of Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri and leaders of the

Zion Church, and reaffirming the United States' global commitment to promote religious freedom and tolerance; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on October 10, 2025, international news outlets reported that the Chinese Communist Party (referred to in this preamble as the "CCP") detained Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri, who is the founder of Zion Church, from his home in Guangxi Province, China;

Whereas CCP authorities also arrested nearly 30 other pastors and church members from Zion Church;

Whereas 23 members of Zion Church remain in detention centers, while other members have been released on bail, and still others are being harassed and intimidated by Chinese authorities;

Whereas the CCP's actions mark the largest coordinated, nationwide crackdown against an unregistered Christian house church network in more than 40 years;

Whereas thousands of Zion Church members and millions of Christians and other religious adherents who reside in the People's Republic of China seek to peacefully worship God and care for their neighbors without the threat or fear of persecution;

Whereas the imprisonment of Pastor Jin is the latest instance of CCP persecution of a large number of religious minorities, including Christians, Muslim Uyghurs, Hui Muslims, and Tibetan Buddhists;

Whereas, since coming to power in 2012, CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping has escalated a campaign to "sinicize" religion in China by—

(1) allowing authorities to burn bibles, imprison believers, and tear down Christian crosses; and

(2) forcing religious organizations and adherents to conform to the ideology of the CCP;

Whereas, under the policy of sinicizing religion, the Government of China has—

(1) ordered the removal of crosses from Catholic and Protestant churches;

(2) censored religious texts;

(3) imposed CCP-approved religious materials;

(4) replaced images of Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary with pictures of Xi Jinping; and

(5) instructed clergy to preach CCP ideology;

Whereas, in 2021, the Trump administration determined the CCP—

(1) had committed crimes against humanity and genocide against predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups, including ethnic Kazakhs and ethnic Kyrgyz; and

(2) has continued to subject religious minority groups in China to restrictions on religious practices and freedom of expression, arbitrary imprisonment, forced sterilization torture, and forced labor;

Whereas the CCP has made consistent efforts to erode the religious, linguistic, and cultural identity of Tibetans, including by—

(1) closing Buddhist monasteries and limiting entry or practitioners;

(2) forcibly disappearing and arbitrarily detaining Tibetans for practicing their religious beliefs;

(3) censoring religious content online; and

(4) expanding the use of boarding schools to indoctrinate children in CCP-approved curricula and Mandarin Chinese;

Whereas Congress unanimously passed the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292), which established, as the official policy of the United States—

(1) to condemn violations of religious freedom;

(2) to promote, and assist other governments in the promotion of, the fundamental right to freedom of religion;

(3) to stand for liberty and with the persecuted;

(4) to use and implement appropriate tools in the United States foreign policy apparatus, including diplomatic, political, commercial, charitable, educational, and cultural channels; and

(5) to promote respect for religious freedom by all governments and peoples;

Whereas, under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom has designated the People's Republic of China as a "country of particular concern for religious freedom" every year since 1999;

Whereas Congress unanimously passed the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281) in 2016 to enhance the capabilities of the United States to advance religious liberty globally through diplomacy, training, counterterrorism, and foreign assistance;

Whereas the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328), enacted by Congress in 2016, gives the President the authority to impose targeted sanctions on individuals responsible for committing human rights violations;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris on December 10, 1948, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted in New York on December 19, 1966, which recognize freedom of religion as an internationally-recognized human right;

Whereas Article 36 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China explicitly states that citizens of the People's Republic of China enjoy freedom of religious belief; and

Whereas the United States must show strong international leadership when it comes to the advancement of religious freedoms, liberties, and protections: Now, therefore, be it

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3166

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3166) to rescind unused COVID funding and reduce the deficit.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, now I ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Saturday, November 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Sen-

ate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator CASSIDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am going to try and envision a way forward for Democrats, Republicans, and Americans out of our current situation, with a different proposal than people have already thought of.

Now, the government has been shut down for 38 days, and tomorrow we are going to vote again, and tomorrow the vote will again fail. But Americans and Congress are frustrated.

We need to open the government. So if to open the government we need to talk about healthcare, let's talk about healthcare. Let's have a conversation in the family.

We have an affordability crisis, and health insurance is part of it. Now, this is personal to me. I am a doctor. I practiced in a hospital for the uninsured and the poorly insured for 20 years, and many of those people that came to see me were middle-income Americans who could not afford their medical bills and could not afford insurance. I want to see this solved.

But if we are going to solve it now, in this present circumstance, we need to move beyond entrenched ways of thinking that have settled us in our camps and refused to allow us to listen to the other person.

And I thank some of my Democratic colleagues for being here. We have got to be creative.

Now, the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare—whatever you want to call it—tried to make healthcare affordable by giving insurance companies more money. The enhanced premium tax credit, EPTC, is the latest example. Next year, it would send \$26 billion to insurers hoping families would see smaller bills.

But that doesn't actually make healthcare less expensive, and for some, it actually makes the health insurance more expensive if you are not getting subsidized care on the exchange.

So we can do better than just papering over the costs for subsidies. Instead of paying insurance companies to manage your money, let's trust Americans with a prefunded flexible savings account worth as much as the enhanced premium tax credit that they would receive.