

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 540—RECOGNIZING HUMAN RIGHTS DAY ON DECEMBER 10, 2025, AND COMMEMORATING THE 77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CELEBRATION OF “HUMAN RIGHTS DAY”

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

S. RES. 540

Whereas the Senate passed S. Res. 731 during the 115th Congress, which designated December 10, 2018, as “Human Rights Day”;

Whereas December 10, 2025, marks the 77th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a landmark document that represents the first comprehensive agreement among countries regarding the inalienable rights and freedoms of all human beings;

Whereas the state of global human rights and civil liberties has declined during the past 2 decades, with Freedom House notably tracking 19 consecutive years of decline in rights and freedoms around the world;

Whereas Freedom House reports that political rights and civil liberties diminished in 2024 in 60 countries and improved in only 34 countries;

Whereas the Human Rights Funders Network reported that major cuts to foreign aid programs promoting human rights is projected to decline by up to \$1,900,000,000 annually by 2026;

Whereas conflict and suffering continues in Sudan, Yemen, the Central African Republic, Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and other countries and territories;

Whereas the Department of State estimates that 1,000,000 individuals are unjustly behind bars as political prisoners for exercising human rights and fundamental freedoms because of their race, religion, or ethnicity, or due to their private relationships;

Whereas authoritarian regimes continue to imprison innocent civilians;

Whereas religious minorities, religious freedom advocates, and missionaries are unjustly targeted, detained, and repressed for exercising their freedom to believe or not to believe;

Whereas, in many countries, political opposition figures and civil society members continue to be unjustly detained for their role in demanding free and fair elections and leading peaceful democratic protests in opposition to illiberal regimes;

Whereas anti-corruption prosecutors and pro-democracy activists are arbitrarily imprisoned on baseless charges for their advocacy of greater judicial independence and transparency in countries where judicial systems are weaponized against human rights advocates;

Whereas authoritarian governments and non-state actors around the world enforce systems of impunity and discrimination to systematically dismantle women’s and girls’ access to their civil liberties and imprison female human rights defenders;

Whereas journalists face political imprisonment for fighting to report the truth, advocating for greater protections for the freedom of the press, and holding governments accountable to their citizens;

Whereas awareness of human rights—

(1) is essential to the realization of fundamental freedoms;

(2) promotes equality among all people;

(3) contributes to preventing conflict and human rights violations;

(4) leads to communities that are more stable, more secure, and safer; and

(5) enhances participation in, and resilience of, fellow democracies;

Whereas Congress has a proud and consistent bipartisan history of promoting internationally recognized human rights; and

Whereas December 10 of each year is celebrated globally as “Human Rights Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 10, 2025 as “Human Rights Day” and recognizes its global significance;

(2) recognizes the 77th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(3) reaffirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(4) supports the work of civil society leaders and human rights defenders globally;

(5) condemns the use of political imprisonment as a tool of repression to restrict civil liberties and human rights;

(6) calls upon governments around the world to immediately and unconditionally release political prisoners who are being unjustly detained for advocating for human rights and civil society;

(7) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to observe “Human Rights Day”; and

(B) to continue their commitment to upholding freedom, democracy, and human rights around the world.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3958. Mr. BARRASSO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2584, to amend title 18, United States Code, regarding additional assessments on convicted persons, and for other persons.

SA 3959. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3385, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3960. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3385, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3958. Mr. BARRASSO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2584, to amend title 18, United States Code, regarding additional assessments on convicted persons, and for other persons; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enduring Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.

Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “Beginning on the date” and all that follows through the em dash and inserting “In addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—”.

SA 3959. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

her to the bill S. 3385, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 2 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION OF RULES TO INCREASE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS.—Clause (iii) of section 36B(b)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2026” and inserting “January 1, 2028”, and

(2) by striking “2025” in the heading and inserting “2027”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 36B(c)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking “a taxpayer whose household income” and inserting “a taxpayer whose—

“(i) household income”, and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following “, and

“(ii) whose modified adjusted gross income does not exceed—

“(I) \$200,000, in the case of a joint return,

“(II) \$150,000, in the case of a head of household, or

“(III) \$100,000, in any other case.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 36B(c)(1) is amended by striking subparagraph (E).

(c) MINIMUM MONTHLY PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION.—Section 36B(b)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “, reduced by \$5” after “1311 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

SA 3960. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3385, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDIT

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF ENHANCED PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION OF RULES TO INCREASE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS.—Clause (iii) of section 36B(b)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2026” and inserting “January 1, 2028”, and

(2) by striking “2025” in the heading and inserting “2027”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 36B(c)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking “a taxpayer whose household income” and inserting “a taxpayer whose—

“(i) household income”, and

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following “, and

“(ii) whose modified adjusted gross income does not exceed—

“(I) \$200,000, in the case of a joint return,

“(II) \$150,000, in the case of a head of household, or

“(III) \$100,000, in any other case.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 36B(c)(1) is amended by striking subparagraph (E).

(c) MINIMUM MONTHLY PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION.—Section 36B(b)(2)(A) of the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “, reduced by \$5” after “1311 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 5284, a bill to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration, dated December 10, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CASSIDY. 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 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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, December 10, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a subcommittee 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, December 10, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. J. Res. 82

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that all time on Calendar No. 203, S.J. Res. 82, be expired, and at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no later than Friday, December 19, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution notwithstanding rule XXII.

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

ENDURING JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2584 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2584) to amend title 18, United States Code, regarding additional assessments on convicted persons, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3958), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enduring Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.

Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “Beginning on the date” and all that follows through the em dash and inserting “In addition to the assessment imposed under section 3013, the court shall assess an amount of \$5,000 on any non-indigent person or entity convicted of an offense under—”.

The bill (S. 2584), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HOLOCAUST EXPROPRIATED ART RECOVERY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 271, S. 1884.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1884) to clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are in boldfaced brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are in italic.)

S. 1884

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 “Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. HOLOCAUST EXPROPRIATED ART RECOVERY ACT OF 2016 IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 1621 note) is amended—

(1) in section 2—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (10);

(B) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

“(8) The intent of this Act is to permit claims to recover Nazi-looted art to be brought, notwithstanding the passage of time since World War II. Some courts have frustrated the intent of this Act by dismissing recovery lawsuits in reliance on defenses based on the passage of time, such as laches (for example, *Zuckerman v Metropolitan Museum of Art*, 928 F.3d 186 (2d Cir. 2019)) or adverse possession, acquisitive prescription, or usucapion (for example, *Cassirer v. Thyssen-Bornemisza Foundation*, 89 F.4th 1226 (9th Cir. 2024)) or on other non-merits discretionary defenses, such as the act of state doctrine (for example, *Von Saher v Norton Simon Museum of Art at Pasadena*, 897 F.3d 1141 (9th Cir. 2018)), forum ~~non conveniens~~ *non conveniens*, international comity, or prudential exhaustion. In order to effectuate the purpose of the Act to permit claims to recover Nazi-looted art to be resolved on the merits, these defenses must be precluded.

“(9) This Act also is intended to allow claims in accordance with the procedures under this Act for the recovery of artwork or other property lost during the covered period because, or as a result, of Nazi persecution, including by a covered government (as defined in section 1605(h)(3)(B) of title 28, United States Code) or an agent or associate of a covered government, regardless of the nationality or citizenship of the alleged victim, notwithstanding the ‘domestic takings’ rule under *Federal Republic of Germany v. Philipp*, 592 U.S. 169 (2021).”; and