

2.8 Rules Committee means the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.9 SAA means the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

2.10 SOPOEA means the Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account.

2.11 Structural security enhancements include devices such as wiring, lighting, gates, doors, and fencing, so long as such devices are intended solely to provide security and not to improve the Member's property or increase its value.

2.12 USCP means the United States Capitol Police.

3.0 General Information—in addition to the permissible expenditures detailed in Section 4.0, Members may utilize the following additional resources:

3.1 Law enforcement coordination. The SAA and USCP may enter into mutual aid agreements for law enforcement support for Members.

3.2 SAA Procurement. The SAA may support Members by providing concierge security management and coordination for Members, including liaison activities between federal, state, local, and private security entities, procuring personal security devices and services, and physical security enhancements using SOPOEA funds, upon written delegation of such authority by a Member.

3.3 SAA Residential Security Program. The SAA Residential Security System Program provides physical security support to Members at their residences at no cost to the Senator. Physical security support can include electronic security systems, security monitoring, and other physical security enhancements recommended by the USCP.

3.4 Use of Campaign Funds. Before using campaign funds, Members should confer with the Senate Select Committee on Ethics and the Federal Election Commission to ensure compliance with applicable ethics and campaign finance rules.

4.0 Permissible Expenditures—Each Member may use funds made available to the Member from their SOPOEA to pay for certain security products or services. Any conditions or circumstances pertaining to Member protection not covered by the following regulations must be submitted in writing to and approved by the Rules Committee.

4.1 Personal security devices. Each Member may obtain a personal security device for use by the Member so long as the device is not:

4.1.1 Ammunition;

4.1.2 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Substances;

4.1.3 Chemicals or other damaging liquids;

4.1.4 Destructive Devices, Explosives, or Combustible Chemical Compounds and Mixtures (gasoline, gunpowder, fireworks, flares, Molotov cocktails, or replicas of explosive devices);

4.1.5 Disabling Chemicals (bear spray, tear gas, poisonous chemicals or gases, or other chemicals designed for self-defense);

4.1.6 Drones/UAS;

4.1.7 Firearms (any weapon that expels a projectile with an explosive);

4.1.8 Handcuffs, Flex Cuffs, or items that can be used as restraints;

4.1.9 Impact Weapons (batons, blackjack, clubs, maces, slungshot, etc.);

4.1.10 Knives, 2.5 inches or more, to include sharp tools, pointed objects or implements such as a switch blade, dagger, dirk, sword, etc.;

4.1.11 Realistic replicas of explosives, firearms, or other weapons to include toy weapons;

4.1.12 Tasers, Stun Guns; or

4.1.13 Weapons of any kind or any other item determined by the USCP to be a potential safety hazard.

4.2 Physical security enhancements. Each Member may obtain non-structural or struc-

tural security enhancements such as a security system or other security support for any residence of the Member so long as:

4.2.1 The physical security enhancements are intended solely to provide security and not to improve the Member's property or increase its value; and

4.2.2 Neither the Member, any relative of the Member, nor employee of the Senate has an ownership or financial interest in the entity providing physical security enhancements.

4.3 Personal security services. A security entity, including local or state law enforcement, may be hired to provide personal security services for the Member so long as:

4.3.1 The personal security services provided under the contract are being provided only for the protection of the Member or their residence(s);

4.3.2 The personal security services abide by all Capitol Police Board regulations, and Capitol Police policies and procedures while in the Capitol Complex; and

4.3.3 Neither the Member, any relative of the Member, nor employee of the Senate has an ownership or financial interest in the personal security entity providing the services.

5.0 Submitting Expenditures—Members shall submit expense vouchers, approved by the Senator and certified by designated staff, with supporting documentation that shows evidence of actual expenses incurred and, if seeking reimbursement, evidence of payment. Office Purchase cards may not be used for the purchase of any member security expenditures.

5.1 Personal security device vouchers. Personal security device vouchers shall be reimbursed to the Member and shall include the following certifications:

5.1.1 The personal security device was purchased by the Member, or procured by the SAA on the Member's behalf;

5.1.2 The personal security device is intended for sole use by the Member for their own personal protection; and

5.1.3 The Member, or the SAA on the Member's behalf, has reviewed the list of permissible and prohibited devices in Section 4.1 and certifies the device being purchased is not prohibited.

5.2 Physical security enhancement vouchers. Physical security enhancement vouchers may be paid directly to the physical security provider or may be reimbursed to the Member. These vouchers shall include the following certifications:

5.2.1 The Member, or the SAA on the Member's behalf, procured the physical security enhancement solely to provide security to the Member and not to improve the Member's property or increase its value; and

5.2.2 Neither the Member, any relative of the Member, nor employee of the Senate has an ownership or financial interest in the entity providing physical security enhancements.

5.3 Personal security services vouchers: Personal security services vouchers may be paid directly to the personal security provider or may be reimbursed to the Member. These vouchers shall include the following certifications:

5.3.1 The Member, or the SAA on the Member's behalf, entered into a contract with a personal security entity for personal security services for the Member;

5.3.2 The personal security services provided under the contract are being provided only for the protection of the Member or their residence; and

5.3.3 Neither the Member, any relative of the Member, nor employee of the Senate has an ownership or financial interest in the personal security entity providing the services.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on International Human Rights Day, which marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

After the atrocities of World War II, world leaders understood that large-scale abuses do not begin with mass violence. They begin when governments cut off basic rights, freedoms, and silence their own people. The declaration was an effort to build a more stable and predictable world by setting clear rules for how governments should treat their citizens.

More than seven decades later, we are again seeing election interference and political repression, attacks on journalists and civil society, war crimes committed with impunity, and a broader disregard for basic human rights. One of the clearest examples is Russia's invasion of Ukraine. To deny Ukrainians the freedom to choose their own future, Russia has bombed hospitals and kindergartens, executed civilians, and abducted Ukrainian children in an attempt to erase Ukrainian culture. And Ukraine is not the only place where the Kremlin uses coercion to control its neighbors and dictate their political direction.

Last year, the Georgian Government took unprecedented steps to silence its citizens and weaken their democratic system. It passed repressive laws. It walked away from Georgia's constitutional promise to join the Euro-Atlantic community. And it cracked down on civil society and imprisoned political opposition, moves that align squarely with Moscow's interests. Leaders in Georgian civil society—including Nino Dolidze, the recipient of the National Democratic Institute's democracy award—have worked at great personal risk to defend those basic rights. Their fight is part of a larger global struggle.

From Eastern Europe to Latin American and Southeast Asia, the pattern is the same: When authoritarian leaders feel threatened, they silence critics, shut down independent groups and dismantle the checks meant to hold them accountable. And the regimes that do this are the same ones that threaten regional stability and our own security, which is why supporting democratic movements and civil society abroad remains squarely in America's interests.

This administration's funding cuts for democracy and election observation programs move us in the wrong direction. And directives telling U.S. personnel to avoid speaking publicly about how elections are run overseas only make it harder to call out abuses when they occur. The United States should not be stepping back; we should be stepping up.

Few leaders understood these stakes more clearly than Madeleine Albright. At her confirmation hearing for Secretary of State, she said, "Democratic

progress must be sustained as it was built, by American leadership. And our leadership must be sustained if our interests are to be protected around the world. Do not doubt: those interests are not geopolitical abstractions, they are real.”

I was reminded of that during a visit to Kosovo a few years ago. While standing at Secretary Albright’s statue, an older man approached to thank us for her leadership and for the U.S. role in ending the war there. It was a clear reminder that when the United States stands with people fighting for basic rights, it makes a difference.

On this Human Rights Day, we should take that lesson seriously. Supporting democracies and independent civic groups makes America safer. That takes U.S. leadership. So I urge my colleagues to back steady funding, credible election observation, and the resolve to call out abuses when they occur.

TRIBUTE TO ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the leadership of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual head of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. As the 269th direct successor to the Apostle Andrew and the 270th Ecumenical Patriarch, he represents a centuries-old tradition of faith, service, and moral guidance that has shaped communities around the globe.

His All-Holiness recently visited the United States, where he continued a tradition of engagement with U.S. leaders. While in Washington, DC, he participated in meetings with bipartisan congressional leaders in the U.S. Capitol, reinforcing the long-standing friendship between our country and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

While in the United States, His All-Holiness was honored with the Templeton Prize, joining a select group of global figures recognized for their spiritual vision and commitment to faith and leadership. His presence in our country highlighted both the continuity of Orthodox Christianity and the enduring need for moral and spiritual leadership in the modern world.

TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER GEORGE COPADIS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize George Copadis for his decades of public service and advocacy for Granite Staters. George has been a giant in New Hampshire’s State government for an impressive 21 years, and he has been a magnetic local leader in the city of Manchester for even longer. He leaves a legacy of steady management, consensus-building, and genuine care for his neighbors and constituents.

George has firm roots in New Hampshire. He was born and raised in Man-

chester, attended college at the University of New Hampshire, and remains a lifelong resident of the Granite State. In 2004, George stepped away from a successful career to accept an appointment as the commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Labor by Governor Craig Benson. He oversaw a State agency that ensured compliance with New Hampshire’s labor laws and encouraged workplaces to respect the dignity and interests of their employees. George served in this position for 8 years under two Governors of two different political parties.

In July of 2012, George became the interim commissioner of New Hampshire Employment Security. Governor John Lynch remarked that George’s dependable leadership would bring “a calming effect,” and his initial 6-month appointment has blossomed into 13 years as commissioner of an important State agency for job-seekers and employers. Individuals seeking unemployment compensation, career-related services, and labor market information look to New Hampshire Employment Security, often in times of great need. George and his team work diligently and swiftly to connect these people to helpful resources.

As commissioner of New Hampshire Employment Security, George served under four Governors from both political parties. His tenure is marked by stability and fulfillment of the agency’s critical mission, yet it was not without its challenges. George describes the COVID-19 pandemic as the most demanding stretch of his career. Working 7 days a week around the clock, George and his team managed the awarding of unemployment benefits that—at the height of the public health emergency—exceeded \$2 billion to 175,000 individuals. Their efforts provided hope in a time of great uncertainty for many Granite State families.

In addition to his service in State government, George is well known throughout New Hampshire for his involvement with several nonprofits and local groups. He has given his time as a board member of the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority for 33 years, and he has also volunteered for many United Way Charitable Campaigns. Most notably, George is famous for his connection to St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in his hometown of Manchester. He has served on its board for 39 years and can always be found at its community events, especially the church’s popular annual GLENDI Festival. Ever proud of his Greek heritage, George has a reputation for bringing baklava to big meetings and gatherings.

I have known George for decades. As a policymaker, I have always welcomed his perspective and advice on ways we can strengthen New Hampshire’s economy and provide employers with the workforce they need to grow and thrive. But more importantly, I am proud to call him a friend.

George’s decades of public service and community involvement were celebrated this past month, and friends, family, and colleagues have joined together to reflect on his many achievements. Having spent most of his life as a local leader in his beloved hometown, George will undoubtedly continue to serve his friends and neighbors with care and compassion in meaningful ways. I join them in spirit for this celebration of George, and I once again thank him for all he has done for our Granite State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BYEONG CHEOL HAN

• Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor Rev. Byeong Cheol Han for concluding years of ministry, service, and leadership to the people of Georgia at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, where he served as senior pastor for the last 16 years.

Reverend Han’s journey in ministry began when he emigrated to the United States in 2002 to pursue his theological studies at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, later obtaining his master of divinity. Following his education, Reverend Han became the associate pastor for the Korean congregation at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne, IN.

Beyond his work at the pulpit, Reverend Han has utilized his voice to advocate for human rights, ensuring the most vulnerable are heard and supported.

In 2021, following the tragic Atlanta spa shootings, Reverend Han stepped up amidst a time of need and great fear within the Korean American community, organizing memorial efforts, comforting grieving families, and championing efforts to protect against anti-Asian hate.

Reverend Han has also worked to expand his church’s reach and impact around the world, building church facilities in Central and South America, visiting Ukraine to aid victims of war, providing earthquake relief efforts in Turkey, and assisting in the construction of a grain mill and providing mosquito nets across Africa.

As Georgia’s U.S. Senator, I congratulate and commend Rev. Byeong Cheol Han and First Lady Sunji Yang for this esteemed milestone and for their years of devoted service to the State of Georgia.●

REMEMBERING BOB FOSTER

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Bob Foster, an enterprising business leader, clean energy visionary, and former mayor of the city of Long Beach, CA.

Born on January 1, 1947, in Brooklyn, NY, Robert “Bob” Foster learned the value of hard work early by laying