

SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that the House of Representatives, executive branch, and judicial branch should establish restrictions similar to those under section 1 relating to participation in prediction markets.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I appreciate what the Senator from Ohio has done. It is a good thing that the Senate is moving swiftly to prohibit Senators and staff from playing around in prediction markets.

Since this is a resolution, it is immediately going into effect for Senators. That is a great thing. Speaker JOHNSON should immediately do the same thing in the House and prohibit House Members from playing around in prediction markets as well.

We must never allow Congress to turn into a casino where Members representing the public can gamble on wars or economic crises or elections. That would destroy the very principle of representative government. Just the possibility that Members could have their votes influenced because of betting is reason enough to prohibit Members from meddling in the prediction markets.

Of all the issues we debate in Washington, this falls squarely in the category of a no-brainer. Then we should go further. This is a good start but not enough. The administration and its employees must apply these very same rules too—particularly this administration, which shows such a troubling affinity to corruption and self-dealing.

When we come back in May, I will work with my colleagues to ensure that the administration can't get rich off betting markets. But today's resolution is a very good first step, and I thank my colleague the Senator from Ohio and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working quickly to approve this legislation, which I am proud to support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I know the Senate is running behind, and I wanted to jump in, but I do invite the pages to bring a podium for me when they are ready.

The pages so rarely get recognition, but without them, where would we be? I am grateful.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am grateful to have this opportunity, and it really is about the fact that very soon, my colleague from California ADAM SCHIFF will be bringing another War Powers Resolution to the floor.

This is the sixth time that a group of us has said every single week we are going to continue to bring these War Powers Resolutions to the floor. And why? Clearly, we know the outcome of the vote. Why are we doing this? Well, we are doing this because it has almost

been a month now that this Nation has been at war. In fact, we are coming up to that very 60-day mark. And we are a nation that has now pledged tens of billions of dollars we have spent in an overseas war where 14 servicemembers have died, where hundreds more have been injured, where our President has given multiple different reasons for going into this war, and none of them have been achieved. In other words, there has been no regime change—the regime is more extreme; their incredible race towards highly enriched fissile material is still there in their country; and we are seeing a nation that is still showing military capabilities.

Yes, we have degraded their navy and their air force, but now, with low-cost drones, they are still able to inflict a lot of damage to their neighbors, to our allies. And they have closed the Strait of Hormuz—something that was not going on before but has caused a global oil shock that is hurting Americans at home. Tens of billions of taxpayer dollars—Americans spending hundreds, if not thousands of dollars—all to support President Trump's folly—costly, tragic folly.

And what do we do? We are bringing these War Powers Resolutions to the floor to force this body not to treat this like another normal day. American soldiers are in the line of fire. This is not normal that a President for almost 60 days has been able to conduct a war with this body being silent on it. In fact, today, we are having our first ever hearing with the Secretary of Defense, and he is saying that this war is going well. Well, by what account?

The American people are against this war. The American people are paying the price for this war. American soldiers are dying for this war. Hundreds more have been injured for this war. We see a crisis in the Middle East that is growing and not subsiding.

So this is yet another attempt of ours to force this body to confront an ill-gotten war, a war that has pulled us into further and deeper crisis, yet another quagmire in the Middle East.

I want to make a couple of points. The War Powers Act says that a President can act in defense of this Nation if it is an imminent threat. We have not seen that. But many people have been saying that the reason why he doesn't need to come to this body for a declaration of war is because of the War Powers Act.

So let's assume that he actually did have an imminent provocation—which I say it was not there, but let's assume for argument's sake that there was an imminent threat to the United States of America that this President had to act upon. That would have triggered 60 days.

The Senate now should be either acting on a war declaration or the Senate should be waiting for the President to ask for 30 more days. That is one of the two choices according to the legislation, the law of the United States of

America. But just moments ago, in an open hearing, we had the Secretary of Defense say: Well, no, no, no, that 60 days is paused because we are in a cease-fire.

That is illogical and not in alignment with the law of our land. We have an active military blockade going on. That is actually an act of war by our own laws and regulations. We have an area of this nation—the Strait of Hormuz—under a blockade, an act of war. It is demanding aircraft carrier groups. It is demanding thousands of U.S. soldiers engaged and on the front-line.

The cease-fire does not somehow escape his necessity to come to Congress after 60 days. To use that as some kind of escape valve to further escape scrutiny, debate, oversight, accountability to this body is unacceptable.

I have heard some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—the Senator from Alaska, the Senator from North Carolina, the Senator from Maine, many of my colleagues, the Senator from Utah—say that the 60 days, to them, matters.

So here is a bipartisan conclusion. We are about to go out on a recess. The question is, What will we do as a body when the President has not come forward after 60 days of this military conflict to ask for any kind of authority?

This was not the constitutional demand of our Nation. This is not the law that we have sworn an oath to uphold. This is insanity that we—the most powerful deliberative body in the world that has a constitutional obligation where war powers sit with us—for us to do nothing, not to demand that the President come before us and make his case and let there be a vote of whether we declare war or not. We are at war. Sixty days have passed, and we are still doing nothing.

So I am going to do everything I can with my colleagues to continue to force this body to confront this failing war where we are losing American soldiers; where hundreds have been injured; where we are spending tens of billions of dollars; where the regime is more radical and more extreme; when they still have the highly enriched fissile material in their country; where they have new capabilities that have been exposed, like their ability to cause havoc with low-cost drones; and where they have now choked the Strait of Hormuz, causing shocks around the country. And we are doing nothing? That is unacceptable.

I want to make this last point. Donald Trump has engaged us in this war to stop them from getting a nuclear weapon. But remember that in 2015, we had the JCPOA. We had our NATO allies, European allies, Russia, China, and Iran all agreeing that Iran would, No. 1, ship out of country their highly enriched uranium, which they did; that all of their enrichment facilities, from Natanz to Fordow, would be open to snap inspections and constant surveillance, which it was; that their mining

facilities would be under surveillance and snap inspections as well, which it was. Iran's ability to enrich uranium over a certain amount was stopped.

President Trump criticized that deal and ripped it up, and at that moment, Iran raced to enrich uranium that put them closer and closer to breakout, and that was the pretext that Donald Trump said he invaded. It was one of the many pretexts of what he said is the reason why he started this war.

Well, he caused that problem, ripped up a deal, and now he is racing to negotiate some way to get back to many of the same aspects of that very deal. This is what the President has done. He created the crisis, declared war to stop the crisis he created, and still has not solved that crisis. This is the great dealmaker. This is the person that said they would keep us out of wars like this that has gotten us into those wars. And now we have no off-ramp, while Americans are suffering with higher prices, higher costs, and billions of dollars of taxpayer money that could be used to reduce the deficit, reduce prescription drug costs, reduce the cost of health insurance or other things that are high priorities for Americans.

So today, instead of ignoring this problem, we are going to force a vote. My colleague ADAM SCHIFF will bring forward a War Powers Resolution.

This is a sad moment for this body. Sixty days is about to pass, and we are doing nothing to demand any kind of oversight, any kind of accountability, or even following the War Powers Act by the letter of the law. We are allowing the President to flaunt our Constitution, to flaunt our laws. The only thing necessary for the Constitution to be so trashed and broken is for the good people of this body to do nothing.

We are about to celebrate 250 years of our Nation's history. When the Constitution was created, this body was created, as Federalist Papers No. 47 says, to be a check on our President, to ensure that they don't overstep their powers, to assure that they don't abuse their office. That is the constitutional calling for this body.

There are soldiers in harm's way right now defending the Constitution with their lives. The least we could be doing here in this body is upholding the Constitution with the moral fiber of our being.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the recognition, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, I rise today because the cost of this war is unbearable, and it is time we finally bring this to an end. I know we have talked a lot about that cost. It is something that the American people are feeling every single day. But I wanted to take a few minutes to really zoom in on what this war is costing us and why this War Powers Resolution by my colleague Senator SCHIFF is so important.

I want you to remember three numbers when we think about what this war has cost us in the first 60 days: \$25 billion, 47 months, and \$450. I want to go through these three numbers.

Let's start with \$25 billion. That is how much this war has cost the American people so far, according to the Acting Comptroller of the Department of Defense, and that very well may be an understatement. Now, \$11.3 billion of that was spent in the first 6 days of this war.

For \$25 billion, we could pay for a yearlong extension of the Affordable Care Act subsidies that the Republicans cut last year. In New Jersey, that would mean that the nearly 70,000 people so far who have dropped their health insurance plans could afford them yet again. It could easily restore full funding to the National Institutes of Health, which was cut by nearly 20 percent in this recent Trump budget. That is billions of dollars on medical research for cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases that are hitting our families and our communities hard.

If we let this war go on for another 60 days, we are telling the American people that this choice of war without purpose or end matters more than their health and their families.

Now let's go to the second number: 47 months. That is the time it takes for a Tomahawk cruise missile to be contracted, manufactured, and deployed. Over the course of this war, we have used more than 1,000 Tomahawks. We have used more than 1,000 Patriot missiles, one of the most critical systems that we use to protect our forces as well as civilian populations. We have used hundreds of other precision munitions that are critical in our larger global defense, including in deterring Chinese aggression across the Indo-Pacific. The cost of this war isn't just the incredible cost it would take to replenish these munitions—now more than \$2.5 million per Tomahawk; more than \$15 million for THAAD batteries, which are critical against ballistic missiles. What we are also seeing is that it is a cost of time in losing momentum, in making sure that we maintain deterrence and project security and stability around the world.

Finally, this last number: \$450. Last week, that is how much more the Center for American Progress projected the average American family will have to pay to fill their tank over the next year because of the rise of gas prices.

One of the more shocking and eye-opening statements and statistics that are out there is that right now, nearly 40 percent of Americans say they can't afford a \$400 emergency. That is the world we live in right now.

This is an emergency. And if you think \$450 is a lot, this figure was calculated last week when the average gas price in the United States was \$4.02. Today, it is \$4.30. Prices are going up, and we have seen negotiations go absolutely nowhere. This administration

has failed to take them seriously, and it is the American people—our families and our small businesses—who are paying the price.

We can't continue to put the cost of this war on the American people. We can do something about it right here, right now, here in the Senate. We can pass this War Powers Resolution. We can bring this illegal war to an end, and we can give the American people the relief they desperately deserve. That is what I call on this Chamber and my colleagues to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of Senator SCHIFF's War Powers Resolution to end President Trump's illegal war against Iran.

Let's begin with a simple fact. We are now over 60 days into this illegal war. The war was started on February 28. A few days later, on March 2, President Trump and his administration submitted the notice to Congress. So even if you take the date of submission, tomorrow will be the 60 days. Of course, we don't want to create incentives for any administration to delay the submission of the notice. So the clock has run. But let's just be clear. Accepting their view of the world, tomorrow will be the 60th day—60 days since President Trump, together with Prime Minister Netanyahu, started this war against Iran—a war started without congressional authorization, without articulating any clear American interest, and without telling the American people the truth about what this war would cost.

This war is making Americans less safe, and we are worse off because of it. The American people know that, which is why they overwhelmingly oppose this war and they want to see us bring it to an end now. Yet here we are over 60 days later. Fourteen American soldiers have been killed, hundreds of American troops wounded, thousands of civilians in the region killed, and at least \$25 billion of taxpayer money already burned. We face even more regional instability in an already volatile part of the world. And we have an administration that cannot explain what it is they are trying to achieve. They can't explain it today. They couldn't explain it the day they started the war.

In fact, over the last few weeks, President Trump has repeatedly pledged that the war would be resolved "quickly"—a promise he has made and then broken many times.

In fact, you may recall, colleagues, it was over a month ago that President Trump declared that we had won. He said: "We won."

Well, if we won, what the hell are we doing there? And the reality is we haven't won anything. Negotiations to