

among farmers is 3.5 times higher than among the general population;

Whereas, according to the Mortality-Linked National Health Interview Survey, the rate of suicide among farmworkers is 1.4 times higher than rates across all other occupations;

Whereas the month of May is National Mental Health Awareness Month; and

Whereas the stigma surrounding mental and behavioral health persists and acknowledging this public health crisis and creating awareness is as important as ever: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 29, 2026, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness;

(2) recognizes the important role of individuals in agriculture as providers of high-quality products to the United States and the world;

(3) seeks to create awareness for the unique challenges agricultural producers and workers face, such as weather unpredictability, labor intensity and shortages, farm succession, and fluctuating commodity and market prices;

(4) highlights the resources available through the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network of the Department of Agriculture in connecting agricultural producers and workers to stress assistance programs; and

(5) encourages all to observe Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness for current and future agricultural producers and workers.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 728—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE SECURING THE RELEASE OF PASTOR JIN MINGRI, PASTOR GAO QUANFU AND HIS WIFE PANG YU, JIMMY LAI, DR. GULSHAN ABBAS, AND EKPAR ASAT DETAINED BY THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DURING FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINGPING**

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 728

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China has arrested Chinese, American, and British citizens for the peaceful expression of freedom of speech or religion, or such acts by family members;

Whereas such arrests have been widely condemned by the international community and human rights organizations, with repeated calls for the release of the detainees;

Whereas, on May 17, 2025, Pastor Gao Quanfu of the Light of Zion Church in Xi’an City was detained and is being held on charges of “using superstitious activities to undermine the implementation of law” and “fraud”;

Whereas Pastor Gao’s wife, Pang Yu, who was subsequently detained on June 7, 2025, remains held despite holding no official position in the church, and has been denied access to critical prescription medication;

Whereas, on or about October 10, 2025, authorities of the People’s Republic of China detained Pastor Jin Mingri, founder of Zion Church, along with other church leaders, on equally dubious charges of “illegal use of information networks”;

Whereas Pastor Jin continues to be detained without access to critical medications to treat diabetes or contact with family members in the People’s Republic of China and the United States;

Whereas, on November 7, 2025, the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 463, calling for the “immediate and unconditional release of all detained members of Zion Church, including Pastor Jin” and for the Government of the People’s Republic of China to end “harassment and intimidation of the relatives of Zion church members and their relatives”;

Whereas, in 1995, Jimmy Lai founded the Apple Daily newspaper in Hong Kong and subsequently faced repeated harassment and arrest, including a 69 month sentence in 2022, on dubious fraud charges that were later overturned, and a subsequent 20-year sentence in February 2026 on dubious national security charges;

Whereas, in December 2025, President Donald Trump said he had asked Chinese President Xi Jinping to consider releasing Jimmy Lai;

Whereas, on December 4, 2025, House Resolution 930 (119th Congress) was introduced commemorating Jimmy Lai and calling on authorities of the People’s Republic of China to “immediately and unconditionally release Jimmy Lai and all other Hong Kong pro-democracy advocates unjustly imprisoned”;

Whereas Gulshan Abbas, a retired medical doctor and grandmother, was forcibly disappeared on September 11, 2018, shortly after her sister, a United States citizen, publicly criticized the treatment of Uyghurs by the Government of the People’s Republic of China;

Whereas Dr. Abbas was later sentenced to 20 years following secret proceedings on charges that independent observers and human rights organizations have characterized as politically motivated;

Whereas the prolonged detention of Dr. Abbas raises grave concerns regarding her health, well-being, and access to a fair trial, as she suffers from severe high blood pressure and osteoporosis, among other conditions;

Whereas, on July 25, 2024, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate unanimously passed an amendment to Senate Bill 4797, 118th Congress, restricting United States visas for “Government officials of the People’s Republic of China about whom the Secretary of State has credible information have been involved in the wrongful detention of Gulshan Abbas”;

Whereas Ekpar Asat, a Uyghur entrepreneur who participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program of the Department of State, was detained in Urumqi on April 9, 2016, just days after returning from the United States;

Whereas Mr. Asat was reportedly sentenced to 15 years in prison without any publicly documented trial or transparent judicial process, suffered from years of solitary confinement, and remains detained in Aksu prison camp, where he continues to be denied access to legal counsel and adequate medical care; and

Whereas addressing individual cases of arbitrary or wrongful detention has historically been an important component of United States diplomacy, reflects long-standing bipartisan commitments to political and religious freedoms, and is an important factor in United States bilateral relations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon the President to prioritize securing the humanitarian release of Pastor Jin Mingri, Pastor Gao Quanfu and his wife Pang Yu, Jimmy Lai, Dr. Gulshan Abbas, Ekpar Asat, and other wrongly detained individuals on the agenda for engagements with President Xi Jinping, including the anticipated May 2026 summit;

(2) urges the President to seek verifiable proof of life and access to independent legal counsel, family communication, and medical care for such detainees; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to defend political and religious freedoms worldwide.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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 ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 9:30 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, May 13, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 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, May 13, 2026, 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, May 13, 2026, 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, May 13, 2026, 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, May 13, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 2:30 p.m.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that James Pomian, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges until May 14, 2026.

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

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

U.S. SENATE,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
May 13, 2026.

Hon. J.D. VANCE,  
*President of the United States Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit a full and complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate, showing in detail the items of expense under proper appropriations, the aggregate thereof, and exhibiting the exact condition of all public moneys received, paid out, and remaining in my possession from October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, in compliance with §105 of Public Law 88-454, approved August 20, 1964, as amended.

Sincerely,

JACKIE BARBER,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE SECURING THE RELEASE OF PASTOR JIN MINGRI, PASTOR GAO QUANFU AND HIS WIFE PANG YU, JIMMY LAI, DR. GULSHAN ABBAS, AND EKPAR ASAT DETAINED BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DURING FUTURE ENGAGEMENTS WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 728, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 728) expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should prioritize securing the release of Pastor Jin Mingri, Pastor Gao Quanfu and his wife Pang Yu, Jimmy Lai, Dr. Gulshan Abbas, and Ekpar Asat detained by the People's Republic of China during future engagements with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

There being no objection, the Senator will proceed to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 728) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2026 AS "NATIONAL BEEF MONTH" TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT ROLE CATTLE PLAY IN THE UNITED STATES, AND TO CONSUMERS

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 711.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 711) expressing support for the designation of May 2026 as "National Beef Month" to recognize the important role cattle play in the United States, and to consumers.

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

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 711) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 30, 2026, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 14; 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 Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the nominations to be considered en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 690 ripen at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow.

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

Mr. MORENO. For the information of my colleagues, they should expect a vote in relation to S. Res. 526 at noon tomorrow.

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MORENO. Mr. 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 KENNEDY.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

## THE ECONOMY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as the Presiding Officer well knows—because I am about to describe the good people of West Virginia as well as the good people of Louisiana and of many other States—most Americans get up every day. They go to work. They obey the law. They try to teach their children values. They try to do the right thing by their children, and they try to put aside a little money for retirement. I have just described millions of moms and dads across the Presiding Officer's State and mine and all across America.

But, unfortunately, many moms and dads, when they lie down to sleep at night, can't. And they can't because they are worried. They can't because they are scared. Worry and fear are inextricably linked. One of the main things they are worried about today in America is the cost of living. Worry and fear also can lead to anger. There is a lot of anger in America today among our middle-class citizens. That anger is shared not only by the folks in the Presiding Officer's State and in my State and in other States, it is shared all across political party lines and all across demographics. Many of my Democratic friends and neighbors are angry just as they are scared and worried. Many Independent moms and dads or many Republican moms and dads are worried, and they are angry.

Why are they angry? First, let me say I understand their anger. It is perfectly predictable. Here is why they are angry, and this is why they are scared: These moms and dads who can't sleep at night because they are concerned about the cost of living look around and they see too many undeserving people—I want to emphasize "undeserving" because I don't want to paint it with too broad a brush.

These parents—these moms and dads—look around and see too many undeserving people at the top getting bailouts, and they see too many undeserving people—not everybody but too many undeserving people—at the bottom who are getting handouts. And they are in the middle, and they are getting stuck with the bill, and they can't pay it anymore because of the cost of living.

Now, this started back during COVID when we experienced our first inflation—a rise in the cost of living in America. You don't have to be a senior at Caltech to figure out what happened. The Federal Government, at the suggestion of President Biden, spent bucketloads of money that we didn't have, particularly and especially after the pandemic was over. They just spent