

This technology, in my view, makes it possible to ensure a return on their investment for students, for parents, for policymakers, and taxpayers. It is going to help us create a workforce that meets the demands of the businesses that employ it and ensures that our workers can successfully compete in the global economy.

One last point, if I might. I think it is clear that access to higher education is an integral part of the step ladder to success and particularly success for the middle class who built this country. Chairman HARKIN, of course, the chairman of our committee who deals with these issues, has probably done more than any other Member in the Senate to put a focus on this issue and how important it is to grow the middle class and address the big concerns they have faced.

Middle-class people haven't had a pay raise in a full decade. It seems to me as part of the agenda—and Chairman HARKIN has had some excellent hearings on these higher education issues—one of the best ways we can come together on a bipartisan basis is to empower students and empower families to be in the best possible position to make the college choices that are going to pay off in the years ahead.

That is what this legislation, the Right to Know Before You Go Act, would do. I hope my colleagues will consider it in the days ahead.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 370—CALLING FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN SYRIA

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KYL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 370

Whereas the Syrian Arab Republic is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), adopted at New York December 16, 1966, the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris, December 10, 1948.

Whereas, in March 2011, peaceful demonstrations in Syria began against the authoritarian rule of Bashar al-Assad;

Whereas, in response to the demonstrations, the Government of Syria launched a brutal crackdown, which has resulted in gross human rights violations, use of force against civilians, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference with access to medical treatment;

Whereas the United Nations estimated that, as of January 25, 2012, more than 5,400 people in Syria had been killed since the violence began in March 2011;

Whereas, on August 18, 2011, President Barack Obama called upon President Bashar al-Assad to step down from power;

Whereas the Department of State has repeatedly condemned the Government of Syria's crackdown on its people, including on January 30, 2012, when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated "The status quo is unsustainable. . . . The longer the Assad regime continues its attacks on the Syrian people and stands in the way of a peaceful transition, the greater the concern that instability will escalate and spill over throughout the region.";

Whereas President Obama, on April 29, 2011, designated 3 individuals subject to sanctions for human rights abuses in Syria: Maher al-Assad, the brother of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and brigade commander in the Syrian Army's 4th Armored Division; Atif Najib, the former head of the Political Security Directorate for Daraa Province and a cousin of Bashar al-Assad; and Ali Mamluk, director of Syria's General Intelligence Directorate;

Whereas, on May 18, 2011, President Obama issued an executive order sanctioning senior officials of the Syrian Arab Republic and their supporters, specifically designating seven people: President Bashar al-Assad, Vice President Farouk al-Shara, Prime Minister Adel Safar, Minister of the Interior Mohammad Ibrahim al-Shaar, Minister of Defense Ali Habib Mahmoud, Head of Syrian Military Intelligence Abdul Fatah Qudsiya, and Director of Political Security Directorate Mohammed Dib Zaitoun;

Whereas President Obama, on August 17, 2011, issued Executive Order 13582, blocking property of the Government of Syria and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to Syria;

Whereas, on December 1, 2011, the Department of the Treasury designated two individuals, Aus Aslan and Muhammad Makhluf, under Executive Order 13573 and two entities, the Military Housing Establishment and the Real Estate Bank of Syria, under Executive Order 13582;

Whereas, on May 6, 2011, the European Union's 27 countries imposed sanctions on the Government of Syria for the human rights abuses, including asset freezes and visa bans on members of the Government of Syria and an arms embargo on the country;

Whereas, on November 12, 2011, the League of Arab States voted to suspend Syria's membership in the organization;

Whereas, on December 2, 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed Resolution S-18/1, which recalls General Assembly resolution A/RES/66/176 of December 19, 2011, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions S/16-1, S/17-1 and S/18-1, and further deplores the human rights situation in Syria, commends the League of Arab States, and supports implementation of its Plan of Action;

Whereas the League of Arab States approved and implemented a plan of action to send a team of international monitors to Syria, which began December 26, 2011;

Whereas, on January 28, 2012, the League of Arab States decided to suspend its international monitoring mission due to escalating violence within Syria;

Whereas, on February 4, 2012, the Russian Federation and People's Republic of China vetoed a United Nations Security Council Resolution in support of the League of Arab States' Plan of Action;

Whereas the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran remain major suppliers of military equipment to the Government of Syria notwithstanding that government's violent repression of demonstrators; and

Whereas the gross human rights violations perpetuated by the Government of Syria against the people of Syria represent a grave

risk to regional peace and stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the ongoing, widespread, and systemic violations of human rights conducted by authorities in Syria, including the use of force against civilians, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference with access to medical treatment;

(2) maintains that Bashar al-Assad has lost all claims to legitimacy due to the perpetuation of mass atrocities against the people of Syria and continued violations of human rights;

(3) calls upon Bashar al-Assad to step down from power;

(4) strongly condemns the Governments of the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran for providing military and security equipment to the Government of Syria, which has been used to repress peaceful demonstrations and commit mass atrocities against unarmed civilian populations in Syria;

(5) commends the League of Arab States' efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution in Syria;

(6) regrets that the League of Arab States observer mission was not able to monitor the full implementation of the League of Arab States' Action Plan of November 2, 2011, due to the escalating violence in Syria;

(7) commends President Obama for authorizing targeted sanctions on human rights abusers in Syria and for extending these sanctions to 12 individuals;

(8) encourages the President to continue designating for sanctions all individuals responsible for human rights violations in Syria;

(9) urges the President to support an effective transition to democracy in Syria by identifying and providing substantial material and technical support, upon request, to Syrian organizations that are representative of the people of Syria, make demonstrable commitments to protect human rights and religious freedom, reject terrorism, cooperate with international counterterrorism and nonproliferation efforts, and abstain from destabilizing neighboring countries;

(10) urges the President to develop a plan to identify weapons stockpiles and prevent the proliferation of conventional, biological, chemical, and other types of weapons in Syria;

(11) urges the Department of State to establish a "Friends of the Syrian People" Contact Group of countries committed to democratic change in Syria, including Turkey, members of the League of Arab States, and members of the European Union;

(12) urges the Department of State to develop a strategy to encourage defections from the military of the Government of Syria;

(13) urges the President to diplomatically engage with the Republic of Turkey and members of the League of Arab States and the European Union to discuss options to protect the people of Syria, including the provision of robust humanitarian assistance, the viability of establishing a safe haven along the borders of Syria, and the use of all means available to monitor and publicly report on abuses inside the country; and

(14) urges the international community to mobilize in support of a post-Assad democratic and inclusive Government of Syria that holds accountable those responsible for crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights.

SENATE RESOLUTION 371—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6 THROUGH 10, 2012, AS “NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WEBB, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 371

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has designated the week of February 6 through 10, 2012, as “National School Counseling Week”;

Whereas the importance of school counseling has been recognized through the inclusion of elementary- and secondary-school counseling programs in amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must provide equitable opportunities for all students;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding the students through academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors assist with and coordinate efforts to foster a positive school culture resulting in a safer learning environment for all students;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with personal trauma as well as tragedies in the community and the United States;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are one of the few professionals in a school building who are trained in both education and mental-health matters;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood;

Whereas the school-counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 459 to 1 is almost twice that of the ratio of 250 to 1 recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the National Association for College Admission Counseling, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 6 through 10, 2012, as “National School Counseling Week”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors play in the school and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1513. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1514. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1515. Mr. REID (for Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself and Mr. SHELBY)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1813, supra.

SA 1516. Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COATS, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1517. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1518. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1519. Mr. COATS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1520. Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HATCH, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KYL, Mr. COATS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1521. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1522. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1523. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1524. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1525. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1526. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1527. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1528. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1529. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1530. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1531. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1532. Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1533. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1513. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 354, line 14, strike the quotation mark and the following period.

On page 354, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

“(6) REDUCED REGULATORY BURDENS.—To reduce excessive regulatory burdens that hinder job growth, project and program delivery, and cost reductions.”.

SA 1514. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 45, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

“(C) FURTHER ADJUSTMENT FOR PRIVATIZED HIGHWAYS.—

“(i) DEFINITION OF PRIVATIZED HIGHWAY.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘privatized highway’ means a highway subject to an agreement giving a private entity—

“(I) control over the operation of the highway; and

“(II) ownership over the toll revenues collected from the operation of the highway.

“(ii) ADJUSTMENT.—After making the adjustments to the apportionment of a State under subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall further adjust the amount to be apportioned to the State by reducing the apportionment by an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

“(I) the amount to be apportioned to the State, as so adjusted under those subparagraphs; and

“(II) the percentage described in clause (iii).

“(iii) PERCENTAGE.—The percentage referred to in clause (ii) is the percentage equal to the sum obtained by adding—

“(I) the product obtained by multiplying—

“(aa) $\frac{1}{2}$; and

“(bb) the proportion that—

“(AA) the total number of privatized lane miles of National Highway System routes in a State; bears to

“(BB) the total number of all lane miles of National Highway System routes in the State; and

“(II) the product obtained by multiplying—

“(aa) $\frac{1}{2}$; and

“(bb) the proportion that—

“(AA) the total number of vehicle miles traveled on privatized lanes on National Highway System routes in the State; bears to

“(BB) the total number of vehicle miles traveled on all lanes on National Highway System routes in the State.”.