

(1) congratulates The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for winning the 2015 College Football Playoff national championship;

(2) recognizes the players, coaches, staff, and fans whose hard work led to the championship; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the President of The Ohio State University;

(B) the director of athletics at The Ohio State University; and

(C) the head coach of The Ohio State University football team.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 51—RECOGNIZING THE GOALS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 51**

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-based education, emphasizing the life-long development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools provide a high level of service to the United States by providing a strong academic and moral foundation to a diverse student population from all regions of the country and all socioeconomic backgrounds;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities, by providing an intellectually stimulating environment that is rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold “helping others” as a core value;

Whereas the total student enrollment in Catholic schools in the United States for the 2014–2015 academic year is almost 2,000,000 and the student-to-teacher ratio is 13.1 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States educate a diverse population of students, of which 20.4 percent belong to racial minorities, 15.9 percent are of Hispanic or Latino origin, and 16.9 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate in the United States is 99 percent, with 87 percent of graduates attending a 4-year college;

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, “Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.”;

Whereas the week of January 25, 2015, to January 31, 2015, has been designated as “National Catholic Schools Week” by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;

Whereas the National Catholic Schools Week was first established in 1974 and has been celebrated annually for the past 41 years; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2015 is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service”; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) commends Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for ongoing contributions to education and for playing a vital role in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 52—CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF UKRAINIAN FIGHTER PILOT NADIYA SAVCHENKO, WHO WAS CAPTURED BY RUSSIAN FORCES IN EASTERN UKRAINE AND HAS BEEN HELD ILLEGALLY IN A RUSSIAN PRISON SINCE JULY 2014**

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

**S. RES. 52**

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko is the first-ever female fighter pilot in Ukraine’s Armed Forces and is an Iraqi war veteran;

Whereas, in the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine, Nadiya Savchenko volunteered her services to the Ukrainian Aidar battalion;

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko was elected in absentia from the *Batkivshchyna* Party to Ukraine’s Parliament in October 2014, and appointed to the Parliament Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) as a representative from Ukraine;

Whereas, as a member of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Lieutenant Nadiya Savchenko was conducting operations in eastern Ukraine against pro-Russian forces in the summer of 2014 when she was captured and taken into captivity;

Whereas, during her mission in Eastern Ukraine, she was captured by the Donbas People’s Militia, detained on Ukrainian territory, deprived of rights to due process, and illegally transferred to the Russian Federation to stand trial on unsubstantiated charges of terrorism;

Whereas, since July 2014, Nadiya Savchenko has endured involuntary psychiatric evaluations and solitary confinement;

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko is currently entering her sixth week of a hunger strike as a symbol of her protest;

Whereas Nadiya Savchenko is denied access to urgently needed medical attention and access to legal counsel;

Whereas the Minsk Protocol of September 2014, signed by Ukraine and the Russian Federation, calls for the “immediate release of all hostages and illegally held persons”;

Whereas appeals have been made to the United Nations Human Rights Council and

the International Red Cross to secure Nadiya Savchenko’s release;

Whereas the international community, including representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and of the United States, have urged her immediate release;

Whereas, on January 26, 2015, the opening day of the Parliamentary Assembly, the global community embarks on a public campaign to bring attention to the plight of Nadiya Savchenko and demand her immediate release; and

Whereas the Government and people of the United States express concern about the deteriorating health of detained pilot Nadiya Savchenko and her continued illegal imprisonment: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation for its illegal imprisonment of Nadiya Savchenko;

(2) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Nadiya Savchenko;

(3) calls on the United States, its European allies, and the international community to aggressively support efforts to release Nadiya Savchenko and other illegally detained persons; and

(4) expresses solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 247. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; which was ordered to lie on the table.

**TEXT OF AMENDMENTS**

**SA 247.** Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1, to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . . STUDY ON RESOURCES REQUIRED TO ENSURE SAFE TRANSPORTATION BY PIPELINE AND RAIL OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.**

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) shall conduct a study on the resources necessary to ensure the safe transportation of crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, natural gas liquids, and related products, including by rail and pipeline. The study shall focus on the following priorities:

(A) Ensuring the safe transportation of crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, natural gas liquids, and related products by rail and pipeline.

(B) Ensuring PHMSA has the necessary personnel and other resources, including access to new and emerging technologies, to properly monitor and regulate the transportation of crude oil, petroleum products, natural gas, natural gas liquids, and related products by rail and pipeline.

(2) **SCOPE.**—The study required under this subsection shall include the following elements:

(A) An examination of the current and projected resources and personnel at the Department of Transportation and PHMSA that are or will be dedicated to regulating, monitoring, and ensuring the overall safe transportation of crude oil, petroleum products,