

related dementias, and for other purposes.

S. 946

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 946, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1495

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1495, a bill to curtail the use of changes in mandatory programs affecting the Crime Victims Fund to inflate spending.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1830

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1830, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1915, a bill to direct the Secretary

of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2045, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 2196

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2196, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2283, a bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements.

S. 2308

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2323

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2323, a bill to clarify the definition of nonimmigrant for purposes of chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code.

S. 2327

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2327, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Act of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit and expand eligibility for childless individuals and youth formerly in foster care.

S. CON. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 25, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should submit the Paris climate change agreement to the Senate for its advice and consent.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 322

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 322, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the refusal of Rosa Louise Parks to give up her seat on a bus on December 1, 1955.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. COATS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BENNET, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2337. A bill to improve homeland security by enhancing the requirements for participation in the Visa Waiver Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Visa Waiver Program Security Enhancement Act.

I am pleased to be joined by Senator FLAKE, who is the lead Republican cosponsor, as well as Senators HEITKAMP, COATS, HEINRICH, JOHNSON, BENNET, AYOTTE, WARNER, BALDWIN, TESTER, KING, KLOBUCHAR, BOXER, and BLUMENTHAL.

This bill would improve the security of the Visa Waiver Program, which is used by about 20 million travelers a year.

The horrific attacks in Paris and the emergence of ISIL make it absolutely clear that we must strengthen the Visa Waiver Program to protect our country. This bill would do just that.

38 countries are now part of the Visa Waiver Program.

Nationals from these countries may come to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa.

Travelers through the program use an online application to gain approval to travel to the United States. Many of these travelers simply apply for approval from their home computer.

Participating countries must also enter into valuable intelligence-sharing agreements with the United States.

By comparison, only about 36 million people secured visas for business, tourism, and other temporary purposes to the United States from 2005 to 2010—an average of only 6 million per year.

As we all know, fewer than 2,000 refugees from the Syrian conflict—which go through a heavy vetting process—were admitted to the United States over the last 4 years.

Put that in perspective: fewer than 2,000 Syrian refugees over 4 years, versus 20 million travelers through the Visa Waiver program annually.

The vetting for a refugee takes 18 to 24 months, whereas an application to travel through the Visa Waiver Program can be approved within seconds.

That should tell us how much of a priority improving the security of this program is.

Today, there are thousands of citizens from European visa waiver countries that have gone to fight in Syria.

In fact, the Visa Waiver Program includes numerous countries that have populations in which some people have become radicalized.

The program includes 38 countries, including the following: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, The Netherlands, and The United Kingdom.

So, nationals of these countries who travel to Iraq or Syria to train and fight may then be able to cross back into Europe and then come to this country on a visa waiver.

As is now clear, some who committed the recent attacks in Paris were French and Belgian nationals.

The attackers in the Charlie Hebdo attacks—the Kouachi brothers—were born and raised in France. They were French nationals as well.

The European Union Justice Commissioner said in April of this year that 5,000–6,000 Europeans could be fighting in Syria.

More than 1,500 are French nationals.

This is why the Visa Waiver Program, at the current time, poses a major risk—it is a quick and direct route for a terrorist to come to the United States without a visa.

The group known as ISIL has publicly threatened to attack the United States and we have every reason to believe they will exploit every opportunity to do so.

So we must take strong action.

A major concern is also the problem with lost and stolen passports, which could be used by dangerous individuals to gain entry to the United States on the Visa Waiver Program without raising red flags.

According to INTERPOL, nearly 45 million passports have been reported lost or stolen within the past 10 years.

Let me repeat that: 45 million lost or stolen passports circulating worldwide.

Passports typically are valid for five to 10 years, which means many of these lost or stolen passports have not yet expired.

If a blank passport is stolen, it may have no expiration date at all.

A foreign fighter could use one of the millions of unexpired lost and stolen passports to travel to the United States through the Visa Waiver Program in order to do us harm.

Today, the first face-to-face interaction and biometric check that a first-time Visa Waiver Program traveler would have with any U.S. official is when the person reaches the port of entry, like a United States airport.

That provides only a narrow window to detect that the individual is a person who is intent on committing an attack.

This Visa Waiver Program Security Enhancement Act would strengthen the Visa Waiver Program in a variety of ways, making our nation safer and protecting an important stream of international tourism and commerce.

First, the bill says that a national of a Visa Waiver country who has traveled to Iraq or Syria in the last five years would have to get a visa instead of using the Visa Waiver Program.

The effect of this would be that the person would have to go through the normal consular process—in which biometric information would be taken, and the person interviewed—instead of traveling to the United States on a visa waiver.

Second, the bill would require that biometric data, such as digital photographs or fingerprints, be provided to the U.S. government prior to boarding a plane to travel to the U.S. on the Visa Waiver Program but only for those individuals for whom we do not already have biometrics.

Today, biometrics are not taken until a traveler from a Visa Waiver country first enters the United States at the port of entry.

That is too late, and it leaves the opportunity for a person seeking to commit an attack against the aircraft itself to do so.

We have recently seen that ISIL is willing to take down airliners. We know what sort of tragedy can happen when terrorists take control of an airplane.

We must do everything we can to make sure an ISIL member does not board an aircraft bound for the United States with the intent to take it down.

This bill would make the biometric requirement effective within one year, prioritizing areas of danger, and would enable the Department of Homeland Security to extend the roll-out on a country-specific basis.

The Department of Homeland Security has already announced its intent to expand Customs and Border Protection preclearance to new foreign airports, including in Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom—all Visa Waiver countries.

As the bill is currently written, those foreign nationals who travel through the preclearance process would satisfy the biometric requirements of the bill.

The simple fact is that we need to develop a way to screen and verify individuals biometrically before they get on a plane to the U.S., and this bill would do that.

Third, the bill would eliminate the use of older-generation passports by any citizen of Visa Waiver Countries.

Within 90 days of enactment, all Visa Waiver travelers would be required to have a valid, unexpired, machine-readable passport that is tamper-resistant and incorporates biometric identifiers.

The Department of Homeland Security has announced that it will roll this out administratively, but this provision would make it a clear statutory requirement.

Fourth, the bill would strengthen the intelligence sharing that is the bedrock of this program.

The Department of Homeland Security has been able to gather valuable data from Visa Waiver countries under existing information sharing agreements.

There are three such agreements. One relates to information regarding known or suspected terrorists. The second relates to sharing of fingerprint data pertaining to serious crimes. And the third requires provision of lost or stolen passport information directly or via INTERPOL.

It is my understanding that—although countries have signed these agreements—not all have fully implemented them. This bill would require that those agreements be implemented, not just signed.

The bill would also establish several new information-sharing provisions, which the Department of Homeland Security would be required to examine in assessing whether a country can join or stay in the Visa Waiver Program.

One such provision would require DHS to consider whether a country contributes to and screens against INTERPOL's lost and stolen documents database.

Let me explain why this is important. Simply put, INTERPOL's lost and stolen documents database is not as frequently used as it could be.

Increased use of INTERPOL's database could assist all nations, including those outside the Visa Waiver Program, to prevent travel using lost or stolen passports and thus to inhibit the international movement of foreign fighters.

This bill would also require DHS to consider whether a country collects and shares biometric information of refugee and asylum seekers—an important provision to help the United States ensure bad actors are prevented from traveling to the United States.

It would also require DHS to consider whether a country shares intelligence about foreign fighters with the United States, as well as with international organizations like INTERPOL.

Lastly, the bill would require that countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program have Federal Air Marshal agreements in place.

The Paris attacks demonstrate beyond any doubt that the Visa Waiver Program creates a security risk for our country.

The Visa Waiver Program Security Enhancement Act will address vulnerabilities in the Visa Waiver Program, improve information sharing, and help keep our country safe.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 323—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF DECEMBER 1, 2015, AS “#GIVINGTUESDAY” AND SUPPORTING STRONG INCENTIVES FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TO GIVE GENEROUSLY

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 323

Whereas the Tuesday after Thanksgiving begins the holiday giving season with a global day dedicated to charitable giving, known as “#GivingTuesday”;

Whereas December 1, 2015, is the fourth annual #GivingTuesday;

Whereas since the inception of #GivingTuesday in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a worldwide movement that celebrates the power of giving in all forms;

Whereas in 2012, #GivingTuesday brought together more than 2,500 organizations in all 50 States and continues to gain momentum with more than 35,000 partners in the United States and around the world;

Whereas online donations have increased 470 percent since the Tuesday after Thanksgiving in 2011;

Whereas #GivingTuesday, along with other community giving days, highlights the charitable community in the United States, which comprises approximately 1,500,000 nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, and religious congregations that are dedicated to improving lives and strengthening communities;

Whereas nonprofit organizations are key partners with Federal, State, and local governments in the delivery of key programs and services, including—

- (1) child learning and nutrition;
- (2) emergency disaster response;
- (3) services for victims; and
- (4) job training and placement programs;

Whereas communities are lifted up by the exposure of all community members to the cultural, educational, and civic opportunities provided by nonprofit organizations;

Whereas the values of volunteerism and generosity toward the common good has led to over 60 percent of people in the United States, including 84 percent of millennials, making financial contributions to support the work of nonprofit organizations;

Whereas virtually every person in the United States benefits from the work of the charitable community, which—

- (1) employs over 13,700,000 workers, or 10 percent of the workforce of the United States; and
- (2) engages an additional 63,000,000 volunteers;

Whereas in 2014, individuals, foundations, and businesses gave over \$335,000,000,000 to support charitable causes and it has been estimated that, with no deduction for charitable gifts, annual individual giving would drop by 25 to 36 percent;

Whereas other effective charitable giving incentives in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 relating to individual retirement account contributions, food donations, and conservation easement donations expired on January 1, 2015, the fifth time in recent years;

Whereas the United States is a great country with a strong philanthropic tradition that should be continued and carried on; and

Whereas all political parties can agree on charitable giving, which transcends differences of ideology and unites people across boundaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the United States needs a strong and vibrant charitable and philanthropic sector to enable communities to meet local needs;

(2) supports the designation of December 1, 2015, as “#GivingTuesday”—

(A) to encourage charitable giving;

(B) to effect positive change; and

(C) to promote causes dedicated to progress, prosperity, and a better world; and

(3) supports strong incentives for all people of the United States to give generously to charitable organizations by—

(A) protecting the existing charitable donation tax deduction; and

(B) continuing incentives that encourage philanthropy, volunteering, and innovation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am pleased to support S. Res. 323, a resolution I submitted today along with Senator SCHUMER, Senator STABENOW, and Senator ROBERTS, which expresses the sense of the Senate that Congress should recognize the benefits of charitable giving and express support for the designation of today, December 1, 2015, as #GivingTuesday.

Celebrated annually since 2012 on the Tuesday after Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the holiday giving season with a global day dedicated to charitable giving through a social movement that encourages giving in all its forms by people and communities across the country.

From the first year of #GivingTuesday, when more than 2,500 organizations from all 50 States came together to celebrate giving, to today, when more than 35,000 partners in the United States and around the world will participate, this movement has provided an annual opportunity for the country to come together to honor the long American history of giving back and working together.

I would also like to recognize #GivingTuesday for its power to enact positive change and promote causes that further progress and prosperity for a better world, while also enabling local communities to meet specific needs.

In my State of South Dakota, for example, many local organizations have already endorsed #GivingTuesday. Feeding South Dakota, located in Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls, is participating through numerous food programs and fundraisers with the ultimate goal of eliminating hunger entirely in my state. Likewise, the United Way & Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton is participating through a book drive that benefits local children as part of the Big Red Bookshelf program, and through financial support that will be used for the Connecting Kids Youth Scholarship program.

The success of #GivingTuesday further highlights the work of the American charitable community, which boasts 1.5 million nonprofits, philanthropic organizations, and religious

congregations dedicated to improving lives and strengthening communities. These charitable organizations employ 13.7 million workers, or nearly 10 percent of the U.S. workforce, with an additional 63 million people engaged in volunteer work.

In all, more than 60 percent of Americans, including 84 percent of millennials, make financial contributions to support the work of nonprofit organizations.

As we just gave thanks last week surrounded by friends and family, it is abundantly clear that we have much to be thankful for. I hope that my colleagues will join me to continue that spirit of giving and sharing, and support #GivingTuesday.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 26—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE RIGHT OF STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 26

Whereas Iran is a major threat to the national security of the United States and its allies;

Whereas Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and continues to materially support Hezbollah, Hamas, and the regime of Bashar al-Assad;

Whereas Iran is responsible for severe violations of the human rights of the people of Iran, including imprisonment, harassment, and torture against dissidents and those critical of the Iranian regime such as human rights defenders, lawyers, activists, and ethnic minorities;

Whereas the United States has led the international community in imposing crippling economic sanctions against Iran for sponsoring terrorism and its human rights violations;

Whereas section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195; 22 U.S.C. 8532) authorizes States and local governments to divest from, or prohibit investment of the assets of the State or local government in, any person that the State or local government determines, using credible information available to the public, engages in investment activities in Iran;

Whereas section 202(a) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 states that, “It is the sense of Congress that the United States should support the decision of any State or local government that for moral, prudential, or reputational reasons divests from, or prohibits the investment of assets of the State or local government in, a person that engages in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran, as long as Iran is subject to economic sanctions imposed by the United States.”;

Whereas section 202(f) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 states that, “A measure of a State or local government authorized under subsection (b) or (i) is not preempted by any Federal law or regulation.”;

Whereas States have explicit authority granted by Congress and the executive