

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