

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE CHALLENGES THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA POSES TO LONG-TERM STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN LEBANON

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 553

Whereas the stability of Lebanon, a pluralistic democracy in the Middle East, is in the interests of the United States and United States allies in the region;

Whereas the United States has provided more than \$2,000,000,000 in assistance to Lebanon in the past decade, including training and equipment for the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF);

Whereas the conflict in Syria threatens stability in Lebanon as a result of violent attacks against Lebanese citizens perpetrated by combatants active in Syria, as well as a massive influx of refugees fleeing the conflict;

Whereas the United States has contributed more than \$5,500,000,000 in humanitarian assistance for victims of the conflict in Syria, including for refugees in Lebanon;

Whereas the people of Lebanon have shown great generosity in welcoming more than 1,000,000 refugees from Syria, a refugee population equal to ¼ of its native population;

Whereas Lebanon is hosting more refugees proportionally than any nation in the world;

Whereas the refugee crisis has challenged Lebanon's economy, which faces a national debt that is approximately 140 percent of gross domestic product and underperforming economic growth;

Whereas the LAF have been called into direct conflict with the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) as a result of attacks carried out by the terrorist group in Lebanon;

Whereas the Syrian conflict has placed additional strains on the Government of Lebanon as it continues to confront political deadlock that has kept the presidency vacant for more than two years;

Whereas the unique political constitution of Lebanon hinges on that nation's distinct demographic and social equilibrium;

Whereas the prolongation of the Syrian conflict has the potential to upset the precarious social and political balance in Lebanon;

Whereas the constitution of Lebanon is further undermined by undue foreign influence, particularly by the Islamic Republic of Iran through its terrorist proxy Hizbollah;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1701 in 2006, which calls for the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon and stresses the importance of full control over Lebanon by the Government of Lebanon; and

Whereas Hizbollah continues to violate United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, including by replenishing its stock of rockets and missiles in South Lebanon: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of bilateral United States assistance to the Government of Lebanon in building its capacity to provide services and security for Lebanese citizens and curbing the influence of Hizbollah;

(2) encourages continued coordination between the Department of State, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

and humanitarian organizations to ensure that refugees from the conflict in Syria, including those in Lebanon, are supported in such a way as to mitigate any potentially adverse effect on their host countries;

(3) recognizes that it is in the interests of the United States to seek a negotiated end to the conflict in Syria that includes the ultimate departure of Bashar al-Assad, which would allow for the eventual return of the millions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and other countries around the world;

(4) supports full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701; and

(5) recognizes the LAF as the sole institution entrusted with the defense of Lebanon's sovereignty and supports United States partnerships with the LAF, particularly through the global coalition to defeat the terrorist group ISIS.

SENATE RESOLUTION 554—HONORING THE LIFE OF JACOB WETTERLING AND THE EFFORTS OF PATTY WETTERLING AND THE WETTERLING FAMILY TO FIND ABDUCTED CHILDREN AND SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 554

Whereas Patty and Jerry Wetterling faced the unimaginable tragedy of having their 11-year-old son, Jacob Wetterling, abducted near their home in Stearns County, Minnesota, on October 22, 1989;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling was taken at gunpoint and his disappearance remained unsolved for nearly 27 years;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling's body was not recovered until September of 2016;

Whereas Patty Wetterling bravely turned her grief into action and devoted her life to advocating for missing and exploited children;

Whereas Patty Wetterling has become a nationally recognized educator on child abduction and the sexual exploitation of children;

Whereas Patty Wetterling serves on the Board of Directors of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

Whereas Patty Wetterling and her husband co-founded the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center to educate communities about child safety issues to prevent child exploitation and abductions;

Whereas Patty Wetterling authored the publication "When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide", along with 4 other families;

Whereas Patty Wetterling served for more than 7 years as Director of Sexual Violence Prevention for the Minnesota Department of Health;

Whereas the Star Tribune selected Patty Wetterling as one of the "100 Most Influential Minnesotans of the Century";

Whereas Patty Wetterling's efforts led to the passage of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (Public Law 103-322; 108 Stat. 2038), a Federal law that requires States to implement a sex offender and crimes against children registry; and

Whereas Jacob Wetterling's memory lives on through the efforts of the Wetterling family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors—

(1) the life of Jacob Wetterling; and

(2) the efforts of Patty Wetterling and the Wetterling family to prevent child exploitation and abductions across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 555—CONGRATULATING THE OPTICAL SOCIETY ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 555

Whereas the Optical Society is the leading professional association in optics and photonics, supporting research and collaboration in the science of light;

Whereas the Optical Society was founded in 1916 in Rochester, New York, as the research catalyst for the science of light and has since become the leading voice for advancing the study and application of optics and photonics;

Whereas, today, the Optical Society connects 270,000 scientists, students, engineers, and business leaders in 177 countries around the world;

Whereas, over the course of the 100-year history of the Optical Society, 34 members of the society have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, Chemistry, or Physiology or Medicine;

Whereas optics and photonics is the science of light, serving as the backbone for modern national security applications, industrial controls, telecommunications, advanced manufacturing, health care, and consumer and business products;

Whereas a 2012 National Research Council study, entitled "Optics and Photonics: Essential Technologies for our Nation", outlined the utility of optics and photonics and their role in facilitating economic growth, recognizing their extraordinary impact on communications, information processing and data storage, defense and national security, energy, health and medicine, advanced manufacturing, and strategic materials;

Whereas the United States Government has recognized the importance of photonics, the contributions of photonics to economic development, and the benefits of public-private partnerships by recently announcing a consortium working with the Department of Defense known as the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics; and

Whereas optics and photonics create more than \$3,000,000,000,000 in revenue annually in the United States and support more than 7,400,000 jobs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Optical Society on its 100th anniversary;

(2) reaffirms the critical role that optics and photonics have played over the last 100 years and continue to play in the economy of the United States and the lives of the people of the United States; and

(3) recognizes the importance of continued investment in fundamental optics and photonics research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 556—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 2016, AS "NATIONAL FAMILY SERVICE LEARNING WEEK"

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, and