

unfortunate proposition that “when the president does it, that means it is not illegal” before, and Congress, in service of the Constitution and the American people, has found that not to be the case. No one is above the law; no one is above the Constitution, including the President of the United States.

President-Elect Trump has also tweeted: “Prior to the election it was well known that I have interests in properties around the world.” That is undoubtedly true. But the American people, in voting for a candidate, cannot—indeed, would not want to—excuse a potential future violation of the Constitution by that candidate.

President-Elect Trump’s attempt to imply that because he won the election, the Constitution somehow does not apply to him is irresponsible and disrespectful. It would be disrespectful to the Constitution; it is truly disrespectful to the American people, who are trusting their future, their children, their livelihood, and their safety to decisions Mr. Trump will make once he becomes President.

We must do everything we can to protect our Constitution, our democracy, and the American people from such recklessness.

The aim of my resolution is straightforward. It takes a strict interpretation of the plain words of the Constitution and supports the traditional values and practices adopted by previous Presidents. It simply calls on President-Elect Trump to follow the precedent established by prior Presidents and convert his assets to simple, conflict-free holdings, adopt blind trusts managed by truly independent trustees with no relationship to Mr. Trump or his businesses, or to take other, equivalent measures. It calls upon the President-elect to refrain from using the powers or opportunities of his position for any purpose related to The Trump Organization. It makes it clear that if Mr. Trump does not take appropriate actions to sever his ties to his businesses, Congress will have no choice, given the oath to protect and defend the Constitution that each and every Member has taken, but to view any dealings Mr. Trump has through his companies with foreign governments or entities owned or controlled by foreign governments as a potential violation of the emoluments clause.

As Mr. Painter observed, “It should send a clear message to [Mr. Trump] that he should divest his assets and that [Congress] will regard dealings with his companies that he owns abroad and any entities owned by foreign governments as a potential violation of the Emoluments Clause unless he can prove it was an arm’s-length transaction.”

It makes it clear to President-Elect Trump that we care about the Constitution and our democracy, that the American people really are watching, and that we will not be distracted from caring about these things.

I want to close by observing that because of strong feelings and passions

generated by the recent election, some might be tempted to view this resolution and its aims through a distorted prism of politics. Nothing could be further from the truth. I strongly support a smooth transition between the Obama administration and the Trump administration. I want the Trump administration to have support from Congress to succeed on behalf of the American people. But when Mr. Trump deviates from his constitutional responsibilities or recommends policies that are contrary to the core values of our Nation, Members of Congress have an obligation to speak out and to act.

I stand here today because I believe Congress has an institutional, constitutional obligation to ensure that the President of the United States, whosoever that is, does not violate our Constitution, acts lawfully, and is discharging the obligations of the office based on the broad interests of the American people, not his or her own narrow personal interests.

My resolution is not intended to create a misunderstanding or crisis, but to avoid one, so that President-Elect Trump can put aside any appearance of impropriety and devote himself to the good work on behalf of the American people. We owe it to President-Elect Trump to make very clear what our expectations are ahead of inauguration day. Why? So that we can avoid a Constitutional crisis. Such a crisis would not serve in the best interests of the President, Congress, and the American people.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5113. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COONS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2944, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program, and for other purposes.

SA 5114. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2944, *supra*.

SA 5115. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 461, to provide for alternative financing arrangements for the provision of certain services and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure at land border ports of entry, and for other purposes.

SA 5116. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. REID)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3438, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5113. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COONS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2944, to require adequate reporting on the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. REPORTS.

Section 1205 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “Rules, regulations, and procedures issued under this part may include regulations based on standards developed by another Federal agency for programs related to public safety officer death or disability claims.” before the last sentence;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” before “In making”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) In making a determination under section 1201, the Bureau shall give substantial weight to the evidence and all findings of fact presented by a State, local, or Federal administrative or investigative agency regarding eligibility for death or disability benefits.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1)(A) Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau information on all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

“(B) Not less frequently than once per week, the Bureau shall make available on the public website of the Bureau updated information with respect to all death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part that are pending as of the date on which the information is made available.

“(C) The information made available under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) for each pending claim—

“(I) the date on which the claim was submitted to the Bureau;

“(II) the State of residence of the claimant;

“(III) an anonymized, identifying claim number; and

“(IV) the nature of the claim; and

“(ii) the total number of pending claims that were submitted to the Bureau more than 1 year before the date on which the information is made available.

“(2)(A) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 180 days thereafter, the Bureau shall submit to Congress a report on the death, disability, and educational assistance claims submitted under this part.

“(B) Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include information on—

“(i) the total number of claims for which a final determination has been made during the 180-day period preceding the report;

“(ii) the amount of time required to process each claim for which a final determination has been made during the 180-day period preceding the report;

“(iii) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before that date for which a final determination has not been made;

“(iv) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number of claims submitted to the Bureau on or before the date that is 1 year before that date for which a final determination has not been made;

“(v) for each claim described in clause (iv), a detailed description of the basis for delay;

“(vi) as of the last day of the 180-day period preceding the report, the total number