

that Congress, the Trump administration and future administrations will continue to invest in our National parks to ensure their legacy endures for our children and generations to come.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 118—CONDEMNING HATE CRIME AND ANY OTHER FORM OF RACISM, RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC BIAS, DISCRIMINATION, INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE, OR ANIMUS TARGETING A MINORITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 118

Whereas, in the past several years, violent crimes, threats of violence, and other incidents of hate-motivated targeting of religious, racial, and ethnic minorities have increased across the United States;

Whereas, in 2015, hate crimes targeting Muslims in the United States increased by 67 percent, reaching a level of violence targeting Muslim Americans that the United States had not experienced since the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas, in 2015, anti-Semitic incidents increased in the United States for the second straight year, according to the Anti-Defamation League's 2015 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, which describes trends such as the tripling of assaults targeting Jews since 2012 and the rise of online harassment and hate speech directed at Jewish journalists and individuals through social media;

Whereas, in 2015, anti-Semitic incidents at institutions of higher education nearly doubled compared to the number of those incidents in 2014, and during the 2016-2017 school year there has been an increase in white supremacist activity on college campuses across the United States, according to the Anti-Defamation League;

Whereas, in 2015, among single-bias hate crime incidents in the United States, 59.2 percent of victims were targeted due to racial, ethnic, or ancestry bias, and among those victims, 52.2 percent were victims of crimes motivated by their offenders' anti-Black or anti-African American bias, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

Whereas, in 2017, there have been more than 100 reported bomb threats against Jewish community centers, Jewish day schools, and other Jewish organizations and institutions in more than 38 States;

Whereas, in 2017, Islamic centers and mosques have been burned in the States of Texas, Washington, and Florida, and Jewish cemeteries have been desecrated in the States of Missouri and Pennsylvania;

Whereas, in 2017, there has been harassment and hate-based violence against individuals who are perceived to be Arab or Muslim, including members of South Asian communities in the United States, and Hindu and Sikh Americans have been the target of hate-based violence targeting religious minorities; and

Whereas, on February 28, 2017, President Donald Trump, before a joint session of Congress, acknowledged threats targeting Jewish community centers and the vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, and stated that "we are a country that stands united in condemning hate and evil in all of its very ugly forms": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the United States stands united in condemning hate and evil in all forms;

(2) rejects hate-motivated crime as an attack on the fabric of the society of the United States and the ideals of pluralism and respect;

(3) condemns hate crime and any other form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement to violence, or animus targeting a minority in the United States;

(4) calls on Federal law enforcement officials, working with State and local officials—

(A) to expeditiously investigate all credible reports of hate crimes and incidents and threats against minorities in the United States; and

(B) to hold the perpetrators of those crimes, incidents, or threats accountable and bring the perpetrators to justice;

(5) encourages the Department of Justice and other Federal agencies—

(A) to work to improve the reporting of hate crimes; and

(B) to emphasize the importance of the agencies' collection and reporting of data pursuant to Federal law;

(6) encourages the development of an inter-agency task force led by the Attorney General to collaborate on the development of effective strategies and efforts to detect and deter hate crime in order to protect minority communities; and

(7) calls on the executive branch—

(A) to continue to offer Federal assistance that may be available for victims of hate crimes; and

(B) to continue to carry out safety and preparedness programs for religious institutions, places of worship, and other institutions that have been targeted because of the affiliation of the institutions with any particular religious, racial, or ethnic minority in the United States.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 2:30 p.m.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold an Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Nomination of Scott Gottlieb, MD, to serve as Commissioner of Food and Drugs" on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Improving Border Security and Public Health."

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY**

The Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Policy is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 3 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "The Current State of Retirement Security in the United States."

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA AND GLOBAL HEALTH**

The Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "A Progress Report on Conflict Minerals."

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 861 AND H.R. 1301**

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 861) to provide for the compensation of Federal employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

A bill (H.R. 1301) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mr. GARDNER. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

**CONDEMNING HATE CRIME AND ANY OTHER FORM OF RACISM, RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC BIAS, DISCRIMINATION, INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE, OR ANIMUS TARGETING A MINORITY IN THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 118, submitted earlier today.