

SEC. 3. CROWDFUNDING EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION.

Section 12(g)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(6)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “The Commission” and inserting the following:
- “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission”;
- (2) by striking “section 4(6)” and inserting “section 4(a)(6)”;
- (3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) TREATMENT OF SECURITIES ISSUED BY CERTAIN ISSUERS.—An exemption under subparagraph (A) shall be unconditional for securities offered by an issuer that had a public float of less than \$75,000,000 as of the last business day of the issuer’s most recently completed semiannual period, computed by multiplying the aggregate worldwide number of shares of the issuer’s common equity securities held by non-affiliates by the price at which such securities were last sold (or the average bid and asked prices of such securities) in the principal market for such securities or, in the event the result of such public float calculation is zero, had annual revenues of less than \$50,000,000 as of the issuer’s most recently completed fiscal year.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—RECOGNIZING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY IN EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

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

S. RES. 150

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris, France, on December 10, 1948, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day” to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, evaluate freedom of the press around the world, defend against attacks on the independence of the media, and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 163 (2013)) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, that unequivocally condemns, in both conflict and nonconflict situations, all attacks on and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment;

Whereas the theme for the 2017 World Press Freedom Day, is “Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media’s role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2151 note; Public Law 111-166), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by

President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the annual Human Rights Reports of the Department of State to include the examination of freedom of the press;

Whereas, the 2016 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders in April 2016, indicated “a climate of fear and tension combined with increasing control over newsrooms by governments and private sector interests”;

Whereas, the 2016 World Press Freedom Index identified a decline in media freedom across all indicators, especially the destruction of media infrastructure, like the facilities and equipment of media, and the adoption of legislative frameworks that unjustly penalize journalists for doing their work;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2016, the three deadliest countries for journalists were Syria, Yemen, and Iraq, with more than half of the journalists killed in combat or crossfire, for the first time since the Committee to Protect Journalists began keeping records;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2016, 48 journalists were killed in cases where the motive was confirmed to be related to their reporting, 28 journalists were killed in cases where the motive was unconfirmed, and 2 media workers were killed;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, impunity for the murder of journalists remains systemic, with the killers going free in 9 out of 10 cases;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, as of December 1, 2016, 259 journalists worldwide were in prison, the highest number recorded since the group began systematically tracking imprisonment in 1990;

Whereas, according to the Freedom House report “Freedom of the Press 2017”, only 13 percent of the world’s population enjoys a Free press, meaning “coverage of political news is robust, the safety of journalists is guaranteed, state intrusion in media affairs is minimal, and the press is not subject to onerous legal or economic pressures.”;

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world;

(2) welcomes the celebration of World Press Freedom Day 2017 on May 3, 2017;

(3) commends journalists and media workers around the world for their essential role in promoting government accountability, defending democratic activity, and strengthening civil society, despite threats to their safety;

(4) pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives or liberty carrying out their work;

(5) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/68/163) by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses, and by reporting on the status of investigations;

(6) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(7) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(8) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon United States leadership in freedom of the press, on the basis of First Amendment protections;

(B) to improve the means by which the United States Government rapidly identifies, publicizes, and responds to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(C) to urge foreign governments to conduct transparent investigations and adjudications of the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(D) to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press in the annual Human Rights Reports and year round.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—COMMENDING THE NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY BEARCATS ON THEIR NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORIES

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 151

Whereas, on December 17, 2016, the Northwest Missouri State University football team defeated the University of North Alabama by a score of 29 to 3 in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division II national championship game in Kansas City, Kansas;

Whereas the victory was the sixth Division II national championship for Northwest Missouri State University since 1996 and the fourth since 2006;

Whereas the Bearcats have won 55 games and lost 2 games over the past 4 seasons, with 30 straight victories over the last 2 years;

Whereas former head coach Adam Dorrel is 1 of just 3 head coaches in Division II football to win 3 national titles, and athletic director Mel Tjeerdsma has the distinction of being 1 of the other coaches to accomplish that feat;

Whereas, on March 25, 2017, the Northwest Missouri State men’s basketball team defeated Fairmont State University in the NCAA Division II national championship, a first in the history of the Bearcats basketball program;

Whereas the Bearcats men’s basketball team finished the 2016-2017 season with a 29-1 record, earning coach Ben McCollum his third Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Coach of the Year award;

Whereas Bearcat guard, Justin Pitts, was named—

(1) Division II Player of the Year by the National Association of Basketball Coaches; and

(2) Division II Bulletin Player of the Year; and

Whereas Northwest Missouri State University became the first Division II school to win championships for football and men’s basketball in the same academic year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Northwest Missouri State University for their Division II national championship victories in football and men’s basketball;

(2) recognizes the athletic prowess, hard work, and dedication exhibited by the players, coaches, support staff, and student body of Northwest Missouri State University; and

(3) congratulates the city of Maryville, Missouri, and Bearcat fans and alumni around the world.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President: This year, Northwest Missouri State University set a record when it became the first Division II school to win the men's basketball and football championships in the same season.

It also became the first Division I or II school in the past decade to win titles in both those sports in the same year.

Located in Maryville, about one hundred miles north of Kansas City, Northwest Missouri State University was established in 1905.

With five NCAA championships already under their belt, Bearcats football began their 2016 season with the goal of adding another title to their great program. Under head Coach Adam Dorrel, they finished their record-setting year with a victory over the University of North Alabama in the brutally cold Division II championship game last December. The Bearcats have now gone 55–2 over four seasons, and their 30 straight victories over the last two years is the longest current win streak in all of NCAA football.

But the men's basketball team gave Bearcats fans plenty more to cheer about. After a very successful regular season, the Bearcats entered the Division II tournament with a 29–1 record. And on March 25, they defeated Fairmont State in the NCAA Division II championship game, a first in the program's history.

Finishing the year with a near perfect record, Coach Ben McCollum earned his third MIAA Coach of the Year honor. And the Bearcats' guard, Justin Pitts, earned several honors and was named the DII Bulletin Player of the Year.

Congratulations to Northwest Missouri State University on a phenomenal year. Fans across the state are excited for another great year as the Bearcats spend the off-season preparing to defend their hard fought championship titles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2017 AS “NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH”

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 152

Whereas, in April 2017, over 118,116 individuals were on the official waiting list for organ donation managed by the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (referred to in this preamble as the “national transplant waiting list”);

Whereas, in 2016, 33,606 transplant procedures were performed with organs from 27,628 deceased donors and 5,978 living donors, yet 6,303 candidates for transplantation died while waiting for an organ transplant;

Whereas, on average, 22 people die each day while waiting for an organ donation;

Whereas over 130,000,000 people in the United States are registered to be organ and tissue donors, yet the demand for donated

organs outweighs the supply of organs made available each day;

Whereas, in 2016, a record was set for the number of organ transplants performed in a single year, yet every 10 minutes, 1 person is added to the national transplant waiting list;

Whereas an organ donation from a single deceased donor can benefit up to 8 individuals;

Whereas a living donor can donate a kidney or a portion of a lung or the liver to save the life of another individual; and

Whereas April is traditionally recognized as “National Donate Life Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Donate Life Month;

(2) supports promoting awareness of organ donation by increasing public awareness;

(3) encourages States, localities, and territories of the United States to support the goals and ideals of National Donate Life Month by issuing a proclamation to designate April 2017 as “National Donate Life Month”;

(4) commends each individual who—

(A) is a registered organ donor who may have a positive impact on the life of another individual; or

(B) indicates a wish to become an organ donor;

(5) acknowledges the grief of families who face the loss of loved ones and commends the families who, in their grief, choose to donate the organs of deceased family members;

(6) recognizes the generous contribution made by each living individual who has donated an organ to save the life of another individual;

(7) acknowledges the advances in medical technology that have enabled organ transplantation with organs donated by living individuals to become a viable treatment option for an increasing number of patients;

(8) commends the medical professionals and organ transplantation experts who have worked to improve the process of living organ donation and increase the number of living donors; and

(9) salutes each individual who has helped to give the gift of life by supporting, promoting, and encouraging organ donation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 153—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. WARNER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas the week of May 7 through 13, 2017, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men

and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service, and as members of the uniformed services, in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and parks in the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve knowledge on how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and of dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;