

(2) supports the important efforts made by diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in response to natural disasters; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to address diaper need by donating generously to diaper banks, diaper pantries, diaper drives, and organizations that distribute diapers to families in need.

SENATE RESOLUTION 206—MARKING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUR GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949, EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW ON CONTEMPORARY BATTLEFIELDS, AND ENCOURAGING UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN ENSURING GREATER RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN CURRENT CONFLICTS, PARTICULARLY WITH ITS SECURITY PARTNERS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 206

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, along with their Additional Protocols, are the foundation of international humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the law of armed conflict, the body of law that seeks to ensure wars have limits;

Whereas 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and serves as a reminder of the importance and continued relevance of IHL in a world with proliferating and protracted armed conflicts, unprecedented displacement, and immense suffering;

Whereas the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 reflect more than just law; they reflect the universal recognition that wars must be fought humanely;

Whereas, at its core, IHL sets out a fundamental obligation that people, even in times of armed conflict, must be treated with humanity;

Whereas IHL requires all parties to armed conflicts, whether states or non-state armed groups, to comply with rules and basic principles that seek to preserve the lives and dignity of human beings, such as that: civilians and civilian objects must not be targeted; hospitals and medical personnel must be respected and must not be attacked; no one shall be subjected to torture or other forms of ill treatment; and rape and other forms of sexual violence are prohibited;

Whereas today's conflicts are marred by significant violations of IHL, the effects of which are apparent across armed conflicts, from restrictions on humanitarian access contributing to the world's worst cholera outbreak in Yemen, to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, in addition to attacks against civilians, and attacks on medical personnel and health facilities; to the Islamic State's use of civilians as human shields; to widespread killings, sexual violence, and forced displacement in countries such as Nigeria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and elsewhere;

Whereas people detained in armed conflict, including prisoners of war (POWs), often suffer torture, abuse, and inhumane living conditions, such as insufficient food, water, and health services;

Whereas, while many states have taken significant steps to ensure humane treat-

ment of detainees, and adequate living conditions, many others still fail to comply with basic standards of treatment and care as required by IHL;

Whereas, as mandated by the Geneva Conventions, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) plays a vital role in visiting detainees in situations of armed conflict with a view to preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, preventing disappearances, improving overall detention conditions, maintaining family contacts, and promoting judicial guarantees;

Whereas the United States has an expressed preference for pursuing its military objectives "by, with, and through" its security partners in some parts of the world, but state militaries and non-state armed groups with which the United States partners may lack sufficient commitment to IHL principles or capabilities to conduct their operations in a manner that effectively minimizes civilian harm;

Whereas it is essential, as a critical component of its policies and diplomatic relations, that the United States affirms its commitment to not only respect the rules of IHL but to ensure respect by its partners and adopt policies conditioning its security assistance in this regard;

Whereas, as the nature of warfare changes, IHL remains relevant to ensure wars are fought with limits;

Whereas IHL was created to respond to new developments and domains in warfare, such as cyber operations, and new challenges do not undermine the importance or relevance of IHL, but rather call for affirming, applying, and ensuring compliance with IHL;

Whereas sweeping counterterrorism measures and country-based sanctions have sometimes impeded neutral, impartial lifesaving humanitarian action in countries like Somalia and Syria;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of implementing and upholding IHL, not just as a matter of legal obligation but also because respect for human life and protecting the vulnerable reflects the best traditions of a professional military force;

Whereas United States senior military leadership often publicly recognizes that minimizing civilian harm is central to mission effectiveness and therefore serves the United States national security interests; and

Whereas, as long as armed conflict remains a reality, there must also be a limit to suffering, and IHL, as outlined 70 years ago in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, sets out these limits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) upon the 70th anniversary of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) remains critical to upholding humanity in war, protecting people affected by war, and preventing suffering;

(2) the Executive branch and Congress must ensure that the United States Government, as the largest donor of lifesaving humanitarian aid—

(A) does not employ counterterrorism measures or other sanctions that unduly impede lifesaving humanitarian action and thereby jeopardize vulnerable people's access to resources critical to their survival; and

(B) upholds the longstanding United States commitment to supporting principled humanitarian action; and

(3) the United States must continue to be a global leader in promoting and ensuring compliance with IHL by upholding high standards of conduct within the United States Armed Forces, taking stronger measures to ensure compliance with IHL by United States security partners, holding per-

petrators of violations of IHL accountable, and seeking compliance with IHL by all parties to armed conflict.

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—CONGRATULATING THE SENATE GLASS CAUCUS STAFF ASSOCIATION FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER SENATE STAFF ON THE 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, on April 23, 2004, several Senate staffers joined to form a first-of-its-kind staff association for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (referred to in this preamble as "LGBT") Senate staff and the allies of LGBT Senate staff;

Whereas that staff association, known as the Gay, Lesbian, Allies Senate Staff Caucus, and commonly referred to as the "Senate GLASS Caucus", continues to serve the Senate community by raising awareness of issues affecting the LGBT community;

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus continues to promote the welfare and dignity of LGBT Senate employees;

Whereas, for the first time in the 15-year history of the Senate Glass Caucus, the Senate GLASS Caucus celebrates the fact that 2 openly LGBT Members are serving simultaneously in the Senate; and

Whereas the Senate GLASS Caucus strives to provide a safe environment for social interaction and professional development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Senate GLASS Caucus staff association on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the association;

(2) commends the late Senator Frank Ra-
leigh Lautenberg of New Jersey for—

(A) the critical role that Senator Lautenberg played in the formation of the Senate GLASS Caucus; and

(B) the steadfast support of Senator Lautenberg for equality; and

(3) recognizes the members of the inaugural Senate GLASS Caucus Steering Committee for the vision and hard work of those members in establishing the Senate GLASS Caucus, including—

- (A) Lynden Armstrong;
- (B) Brett Bearce;
- (C) Josh Brekenfeld;
- (D) John Fossum;
- (E) Jason Knapp;
- (F) Jeffrey Levensaler;
- (G) Kelsey Phipps; and
- (H) Mat Young.

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY AS "AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH"

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: