

were added as cosponsors of S. 2701, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

S. 2742

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2742, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 2745

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2745, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination by abortion against an unborn child on the basis of Down syndrome.

S. 2770

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to direct the Attorney General to make grants to States that have in place a law providing for the rights of sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 98, a resolution establishing the Congressional Gold Star Family Fellowship Program for the placement in offices of Senators of children, spouses, and siblings of members of the Armed Forces who are hostile casualties or who have died from a training-related injury.

S. RES. 371

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 371, a resolution reaffirming the support of the United States for the people of the Republic of South Sudan and calling on all parties to uphold their commitments to peace and dialogue as outlined in the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.

S. RES. 395

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 395, a resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Iran Hostage Crisis, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2801. A bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, along with Senator COLLINS, I am reintroducing legislation that would eliminate the sunset date for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (the Council) so that this agency can further build upon its success in helping to prevent and end homelessness.

The Council was launched under the Reagan Administration as part of the landmark McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. Since then, it has worked across the Federal government and private sector to coordinate homeless assistance nationally. In 2009, the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing, or HEARTH Act, which I introduced along with Senator COLLINS and others, expanded the Council's role to work with stakeholders to develop a national strategic plan to end homelessness, which has guided its work to develop effective strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

Since 2010 when this national strategic plan was first developed, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reports that overall homelessness has decreased by 13%, chronic homelessness by 16%, and family homelessness by 25%. In addition, we have seen veterans' homelessness drop by 49%. This progress is not only a result of the more than \$600 million federal investment in housing and supportive services through programs like HUD-VASH, but is also because of the direction the Council provides to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and HUD, as well as public housing agencies administering assistance at the local level. Specifically, the Council helps diverse partners align their resources, efforts, goals, and measures of success for serving homeless veterans. According to the Council, it "has led a process to confirm that 78 communities and 3 entire states have effectively ended Veteran homelessness. 35 states now have at least one community that has ended Veteran homelessness. Some recent confirmations include: Abilene, Texas, Lexington, Kentucky, Little Rock, Arkansas, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and the 71 counties in Mississippi that make up the Mississippi Balance of State Continuum of Care." In order to further these efforts and also tackle veterans' homelessness on the front end, the Senate's fiscal year 2020 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill includes language I authored directing the Council to improve the coordination between the Department of Defense, the VA, the Department of Labor, and HUD in order to prevent servicemembers from being discharged into homelessness.

In addition to addressing homelessness in our communities, the Council has also helped to save money. We

know that people experiencing homelessness are more likely to use expensive health care services and spend more time in incarceration—which are extremely costly to taxpayers, States, and local governments. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, "based on 22 different studies from across the nation providing permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless people creates net savings of \$4,800 per person per year, through reduced spending on jails, hospitals, shelters, and other emergency services."

The Council has extended these estimated savings by identifying and tailoring cost-effective solutions that reduce the use of health care services, as well as recidivism, for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. In fiscal year 2019 alone, the Council's modest \$3.6 million budget catalyzed more than \$6 billion in combined Federal resources that aim to address homelessness. The Council develops national strategies that inform the work and improve the cost-effectiveness of programs administered by 19 Federal agencies, and as a result, communities and States are able to utilize housing, health, education, and labor funding more strategically and effectively.

In our current budgetary environment we must have a wise and creative arm that helps our communities maximize resources and opportunities where possible, ensuring we are actually addressing homelessness, and not contributing to it. The Council is proof that the government can work and save money in the process, and our bipartisan legislation ensures that the Council's doors remain open until there truly is an end to homelessness nationwide.

I thank the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, HousingWorksRI, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities, A Way Home America, Community Solutions International, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, Funders Together to End Homelessness, True Colors United, the Children's Defense Fund, the National Housing Trust, the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, the Public Housing Authorities Directors Association, LeadingAge, Heartland Alliance, National Housing Conference, the National AIDS Housing Coalition, Covenant House International, the Forum for Youth Investment, the Housing Assistance Council, Volunteers of America, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the Technical Assistance Collaborative, and the National Coalition for the Homeless for their support. I

urge our colleagues to join Senator COLLINS and me in supporting this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFFS, EMPLOYEES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE A DUTY TO PROTECT THE IDENTITIES OF WHISTLEBLOWERS AND SAFEGUARD WHISTLEBLOWERS FROM RETALIATION

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 408

Whereas the United States has historically acknowledged a duty of individuals who serve the United States to report misconduct, fraud, and violations of law, as demonstrated by the first whistleblower legislation in the United States, which was passed unanimously by the Continental Congress on July 30, 1778 and read, “*Resolved*, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge” (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, DC, 1904-37), 11:732);

Whereas the duty to report misconduct, fraud, and violations of law remains, irrespective of the motives of a whistleblower, and, therefore, impugning the motives of whistleblowers has no relevance to the public interest in exposing and correcting improper or illegal conduct;

Whereas, for each of the past 7 years, including most recently in Senate Resolution 194, 116th Congress, agreed to July 23, 2019, the Senate has recognized that “whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities” and “serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place”;

Whereas a whistleblower lawfully filed a complaint on August 12, 2019, with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, who determined that the complaint appeared “credible” and involved a matter of “urgent concern” in accordance with section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)) (commonly known as the “Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act of 1998”); and

Whereas 90 former national security officials who served in Democratic and Republican administrations wrote an open letter to the people of the United States stating,

“Whatever one’s view of the matters discussed in the whistleblower’s complaint, all Americans should be united in demanding that all branches of our government and all outlets of our media protect this whistleblower and his or her identity. Simply put, he or she has done what our law demands; now he or she deserves our protection.”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) appreciates employees and contractors, working on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States, who “blow the whistle” to the appropriate authorities by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes;

(2) acknowledges the contributions of whistleblowers to combat abuse, fraud, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States that have helped to safeguard the national security of the United States, democracy, and the rule of law in the United States; and

(3) recognizes that the duty affirmed by Congress since the founding of the United States to report misconduct, fraud, and violations of law calls for a corresponding duty of Members of Congress and their staff, employees of the Executive Office of the President and executive branch agencies, and the President of the United States to—

(A) protect the identities of whistleblowers who report abuse, fraud, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States; and

(B) safeguard whistleblowers from retaliation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 409—REQUESTING INFORMATION ON TURKEY’S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN SYRIA PURSUANT TO SECTION 502B(C) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

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

S. RES. 409

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON TURKEY’S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN SYRIA.

(a) STATEMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of State shall, pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), transmit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a statement, prepared with the assistance of the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Office of the Legal Adviser, with respect to Turkey.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The statement submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) All available credible information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Government of Turkey, its armed forces, and associated groups and persons, including the denial of the right to life in the context of their activities in Syria caused by indiscriminate or disproportionate operations, the infliction of civilian casualties, and the displacement of civilian populations;

(2) A description of the steps the United States Government has taken—

(A) to promote respect for and observance of human rights as part of Turkey’s activities in Syria and discourage any practices

that are inimical to internationally recognized human rights; and

(B) to publicly or privately call attention to, and disassociate the United States and any security assistance provided for Turkey from, such practices.

(3) An assessment, notwithstanding any such practices, whether extraordinary circumstances exist that necessitate a continuation of security assistance for Turkey and, if so, a description of the circumstances and the extent to which the assistance should be continued (subject to such conditions as Congress may impose under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304)).

(4) Other information, including—

(A) an assessment from the Secretary of State of the likelihood that United States security assistance, as defined in section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)), has been and will be used in Syria;

(B) a description of the extent to which the activities of the Government of Turkey, its armed forces, and associated groups or persons have—

(i) caused, assisted, or resulted in the release of ISIS fighters, supporters, and other extremists from detention; or

(ii) promoted conditions that support, assist or have resulted or could result in a strengthening of the military capabilities of such fighters and extremists within Syria, including the practical control over territory;

(C) a description of the extent to which such strengthening of such capabilities of ISIS and other extremist groups and persons could increase the threat to the United States, United States citizens, and United States interests, both in the United States and abroad;

(D) a description of efforts by the Secretary of State and other United States officials to persuade the Government of Turkey to cease its activities in Syria and commitments to support United States and multilateral efforts to comprehensively defeat ISIS within Syria;

(E) a determination whether Turkey’s purchase and acceptance of delivery of the S-400 missile system from the Russian Federation constitutes a “significant transaction” pursuant to section 231 of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525);

(F) a description of any actions by the Government of Turkey to forcibly repatriate Syrian refugees; and

(G) an assessment of whether the Government of Turkey is blocking humanitarian aid from reaching communities in need of assistance in northeast Syria.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. 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 ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 06, 2019, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.