

China that the free world stands with Hongkongers in their struggle.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I want to take a moment to congratulate my colleague from Oregon and a distinguished member of the Foreign Relations Committee who has worked on this issue, alongside of Senator CORNYN, with great skill in a way that allowed the legislation we just passed to take place, which he strongly supports, and to make his legislation, along with Senator CORNYN, a reality shortly. He has been very adept about it and very constructive. It is going to be a great moment when we send a message that U.S. weaponry isn't going to be part of the oppression in Hong Kong. I salute him, and I join him in his effort.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSOR

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be included as an original cosponsor of the legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, on behalf of myself and Senator CORNYN, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from consideration of S. 2710 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2710) to prohibit the commercial export of covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Merkley amendments, which are at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments (Nos. 1247 and 1248) were agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1247

(Purpose: To include the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate as part of the notification requirement)

On page 1, line 7, insert "the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and" before "the Committee on Foreign Relations".

AMENDMENT NO. 1248

(Purpose: To provide a one-year sunset)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

The prohibition under section 2 shall expire one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 2710), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2710

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS.—The term "covered munitions items" means tear gas, pepper spray, rubber bullets, foam rounds, bean bag rounds, pepper balls, water cannons, handcuffs, shackles, stun guns, and tasers.

(3) HONG KONG.—The term "Hong Kong" has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 5702).

(4) HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.—The term "Hong Kong Police Force" means—

(A) the Hong Kong Police Force; and

(B) the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL EXPORT OF COVERED MUNITIONS ITEMS TO THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall prohibit the issuance of licenses to export covered munitions items to the Hong Kong Police Force.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition set forth in subsection (a) shall not apply to the issuance of a license with respect to which the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees, not fewer than 30 days before the date of such issuance, a written notice—

(1) certifying that the exports to be covered by such license are important to the national interests and foreign policy goals of the United States; and

(2) describing the manner in which such exports will promote such interests and goals.

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

The prohibition under section 2 shall expire one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CAREER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, when we in Congress are fortunate enough to win our elections, we then must take an oath of office. It is quite simple and straightforward: "I do sol-

emnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God"—defend the Constitution and faithfully discharge the duties of this sacred office. Notably, the oath does not say defend the President over the rule of law or our constitutional duties.

And yet President Trump has made crude and inexcusable attacks against our professional diplomats and military officials who bravely and patriotically tried to abide by this same oath by upholding these values of honor and the rule of law. Career professionals testifying as part of the ongoing impeachment inquiry are facing partisan attacks and even efforts that threaten their lives and careers. President Trump has made no secret of his long-held suspicion of government workers, which he and his allies have perpetually accused of trying to bring down his Presidency.

That former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch told House Members that she felt "threatened" by our own President who called her "bad news" is despicable. In fact, Trump even attacked Yovanovitch on Twitter last week during her powerful public testimony before the House Intelligence Committee.

There have also been countless baseless attacks and insulting questions of loyalty faced by witnesses such as LTC Alexander Vindman. Vindman, who was born in Kiev, immigrated to the U.S. and spent 20 years as an Army officer, an officer who has shed blood for our country, as recognized by his Purple Heart.

Twenty-five years ago, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was another longtime Army officer who was born behind the Iron Curtain. GEN John Shalikashvili was born in Poland and moved to Peoria, IL, when he was 16. Thank goodness he served our country in a time where his career was not derailed by such degrading attacks.

I commend Defense Secretary Esper for promising that Lieutenant Colonel Vindman "shouldn't have any fear of retaliation," which only begs the question: Why can't Secretary Pompeo make the same promise for State Department officials? U.S. diplomats and military officials put their lives at risk every day at embassies and conflict zones around the world. To be attacked by their own government—and at the highest levels—defies belief and is beneath the offices they hold.

That President Trump and Republicans deride and bully these American patriots for telling the truth while Secretary Pompeo sits silently on his hands is simply beyond the pale. It is the opposite of what we teach our children. These career professionals—these