

(1) commends the Louisiana State University Tigers football team (referred to in this resolution as the “Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers”) for winning the 2020 College Football Playoff National Championship;

(2) recognizes the many achievements of the coaches, players, and staff of the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers;

(3) recognizes the fans of the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers and the people of Louisiana for their dedication and support; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the head coach of the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers, Ed Orgeron;

(B) the interim President of Louisiana State University, Tom Galligan; and

(C) the Athletic Director of Louisiana State University, Scott Woodward.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 473—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CHARLESTON MEN’S SOCCER TEAM FOR WINNING THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II MEN’S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP AT HIGHMARK STADIUM IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

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

S. RES. 473

Whereas, on December 14, 2019, the University of Charleston men’s soccer team won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division II Men’s Soccer Championship at Highmark Stadium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was the second national championship in 3 years for the University of Charleston;

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team finished its historic season with a record of 22 wins, 2 losses, and 1 tie by securing a victory over California State University, Los Angeles in the national championship;

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team has become a symbol of pride and success to the University of Charleston and the surrounding communities in West Virginia;

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team held its opponents scoreless in 17 of 25 matches in 2019, with goalkeeper Alvaro Unanua Dean registering 11 shutouts;

Whereas Alvaro Unanua Dean was recognized as the 2019–2020 NCAA Division II statistical champion for Goals Against Average and Save Percentage;

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team earned the 2019–2020 Division II men’s soccer statistical championship title for Goals Against Average and Shutout Percentage;

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team won the championship in the first and third seasons with Dan Stratford as head coach;

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team outscored its opponents 87–8 over the course of the 2019 season, led by Freddy Tracey with 14 goals, including 6 game-winning goals, one of which was in the national championship;

Whereas Ettore Ballestracci was ranked fourth nationally in NCAA Division II players with the most assists, with 12 assists throughout the 2019 season;

Whereas All-Atlantic Region First Team players Williams D’Nah and Jordi Ramon, who shut out their NCAA Division II Tournament opponents in 5 out of 6 matches, anchored the defense of the top-ranked University of Charleston men’s soccer team;

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team finished the 2019 season with 12 consecutive wins, cruising to its sixth straight Mountain East Conference regular season title, second consecutive MEC tournament championship, and fifth NCAA Division II Men’s Soccer Atlantic Region title in 6 seasons;

Whereas Christopher Allan was named Most Outstanding Defensive Player, and Freddy Tracey was named Most Outstanding Offensive Player;

Whereas Christopher Allan, Freddy Tracey, Williams N’Dah, and Alvaro Unanua Dean were named to the All-NCAA National Championship Tournament Team; and

Whereas the University of Charleston men’s soccer team should be praised for the historic season of both athletic and academic accomplishments: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Charleston men’s soccer team for winning the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men’s Soccer Championship;

(2) recognizes the athletic program at the University of Charleston for its achievement in both sports and academics; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the University of Charleston for appropriate display;

(B) the President of the University of Charleston; and

(C) the head coach of the University of Charleston men’s soccer team.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO A FREE SOCIETY AND PROTECTED FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND RECOGNIZING THE 234TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 34

Whereas the democracy of the United States is rooted in the fundamental truth that all people are created equal, endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas the freedom of conscience was highly valued by—

(1) individuals seeking religious freedom who settled in the colonies in the United States;

(2) the founders of the United States; and

(3) Thomas Jefferson, who wrote in a letter to the Society of the Methodist Episcopal

Church at New London, Connecticut, dated February 4, 1809, that “[n]o provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprizes of the civil authority”;

Whereas the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was—

(1) drafted by Thomas Jefferson, who considered the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom to be one of his greatest achievements;

(2) enacted on January 16, 1786; and

(3) the forerunner to the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) states that—

(1) “[t]he right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States”;

(2) religious freedom was established by the founders of the United States “in law, as a fundamental right and as a pillar of our Nation”;

Whereas the role of religion in society and public life in the United States has a long and robust tradition;

Whereas individuals who have studied the democracy of the United States from an international perspective, such as Alexis de Tocqueville, have noted that religion plays a central role in preserving the Government of the United States because religion provides the moral base required for democracy to succeed;

Whereas, in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 134 S. Ct. 1811 (2014), the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that “people of many faiths may be united in a community of tolerance and devotion”;

Whereas the principle of religious freedom “has guided our Nation forward”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2011, and freedom of religion “is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe”, as expressed by that President of the United States on Religious Freedom Day in 2013;

Whereas “[f]reedom of religion is a fundamental human right that must be upheld by every nation and guaranteed by every government”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1999;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects—

(1) the right of individuals to freely express and act on the religious beliefs of those individuals; and

(2) individuals from coercion to profess or act on a religious belief to which those individuals do not adhere;

Whereas “our laws and institutions should not impede or hinder but rather should protect and preserve fundamental religious liberties”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in remarks accompanying the signing of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.);

Whereas, for countless people of the United States, faith is an integral part of every aspect of daily life and is not limited to the homes, houses of worship, or doctrinal creeds of those individuals;

Whereas “religious faith has inspired many of our fellow citizens to help build a better Nation” in which “people of faith continue to wage a determined campaign to meet needs and fight suffering”, as expressed by the 43rd President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2003;

Whereas, “[f]rom its birth to this day, the United States has prized this legacy of religious freedom and honored this heritage by standing for religious freedom and offering refuge to those suffering religious persecution”, as noted in section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a));

Whereas Thomas Jefferson wrote—

(1) in 1798 that each right encompassed in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is dependent on the other rights described in that Amendment, “thereby guarding in the same sentence, and under the same words, the freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press: inasmuch, that whatever violated either, throws down the sanctuary which covers the others”; and

(2) in 1822 that the constitutional freedom of religion is “the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights”;

Whereas religious freedom “has been integral to the preservation and development of the United States”, and “the free exercise of religion goes hand in hand with the preservation of our other rights”, as expressed by the 41st President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1993; and

Whereas we “continue to proclaim the fundamental right of all peoples to believe and worship according to their own conscience, to affirm their beliefs openly and freely, and to practice their faith without fear or intimidation”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1998: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) on Religious Freedom Day on January 16, 2020, honors the 234th anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; and

(2) affirms that—

(A) for individuals of any faith and individuals of no faith, religious freedom includes the right of an individual to live, work, associate, and worship in accordance with the beliefs of the individual;

(B) all people of the United States can be unified in supporting religious freedom, regardless of differing individual beliefs, because religious freedom is a fundamental human right; and

(C) “the American people will remain forever unshackled in matters of faith”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2012.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 5 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing in executive session.

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#### 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, January 15, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### 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 on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my fellow Nitza Sola-Rotger have privileges of the floor for the balance of the day.

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

#### NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2019 fourth quarter Mass Mailing report is Monday, January 27, 2020. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at [http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass\\_mailing\\_form.htm](http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm) or delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. when the Senate is not in session). For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

#### UNITED STATES-MEXICO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 336, H.R. 133.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 133) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee

on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress finds the following:*

(1) *The United States and Mexico have benefited from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.*

(2) *In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy reforms that opened its energy sector to private investment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico and the United States and opening new opportunities for United States energy engagement.*

(3) *On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State stated, “Our exchange programs build enduring relationships and networks to advance U.S. national interests and foreign policy goals . . . The role of our exchanges . . . in advancing U.S. national security and economic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong return on investment.”*

(4) *According to the Institute of International Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more than 56,000 United States students studied in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region while more than 84,000 non-United States students from the region studied in the United States, but only 5,000 of those United States students studied in Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States students were from Mexico.*

#### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

*It is the policy of the United States—*

(1) *to continue deepening economic cooperation between the United States and Mexico;*

(2) *to seek to prioritize and expand educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through frameworks such as the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative, Jóvenes en Acción (Youth in Action), the Fulbright Foreign Student Program, and the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program; and*

(3) *to promote positive cross-border relations as a priority for advancing United States foreign policy and programs.*

#### SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico through frameworks such as those referred to in section 3(2).*

(b) *ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—*

(1) *encourage more academic exchanges between the United States and Mexico at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels;*

(2) *encourage United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico;*

(3) *promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the United States and Mexico; and*

(4) *assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships between universities in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as medical school and*