

S.J. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 68, a joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution providing for a joint hearing of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the audited financial statement of the executive branch.

S. RES. 481

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 481, a resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 494—DENOUNCING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION OR CUTTING AS A VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS AND URGING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE HARMFUL PRACTICE

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 494

Whereas female genital mutilation or cutting (referred to in this preamble as “FGM/C”) is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of women and girls;

Whereas FGM/C comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons;

Whereas an estimated 200 million girls and women alive as of January 2020 have been victims of FGM/C, with girls under the age of 15 representing 44 million of those who have been cut;

Whereas more than 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk of FGM/C annually;

Whereas the practice of FGM/C is mostly carried out on young girls between infancy and age 15;

Whereas the practice of FGM/C is rooted in gender inequality and is often linked to other elements of gender-based violence and discrimination, such as child marriage;

Whereas the World Health Organization asserts that FGM/C—

(1) has no health benefits for women and girls; and

(2) can have long-term impacts on the physical, psychological, sexual, and reproductive health of the women and girls who experience FGM/C;

Whereas the impacts of FGM/C on the physical health of women and girls can include bleeding, infection, obstetric fistula, complications during childbirth, and death;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children’s Fund, FGM/C is reported to occur in all parts of the world, but is most prevalent in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia;

Whereas, although the practice of FGM/C is highly concentrated in specific regions and associated with several cultural traditions, it is not tied to any one religion;

Whereas, in 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a report estimating that 513,000 women and girls in the United States were at risk of, or may have been subjected to, FGM/C;

Whereas, in 2015, the United Nations adopted a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals that includes a target to eliminate FGM/C by 2030, having previously recognized in 2010 that “the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society”;

Whereas the elimination of FGM/C has been called for—

(1) by numerous intergovernmental organizations, including the African Union, the European Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; and

(2) in 3 resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly;

Whereas the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices prepared by the Department of State include information on—

(1) whether FGM/C is prevalent;

(2) the type and category of genital cutting that is most common; and

(3) international and governmental efforts to address the practice of FGM/C;

Whereas the Federal Government recognized FGM/C as a form of gender-based violence in—

(1) the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally, released in August 2012 and updated in June 2016; and

(2) the United States Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls, released in March 2016;

Whereas a Government Accountability Office report released in 2016 concluded that “State and USAID currently have limited international assistance efforts to address FGM/C”; and

Whereas, in 2012, the United Nations General Assembly designated February 6 as the “International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation” to enhance awareness of, and encourage concrete actions by governments and individuals against, the practice of FGM/C: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) denounces female genital mutilation or cutting as a violation of the human rights of women and girls;

(2) affirms the importance of ending the practice of female genital mutilation or cutting globally for the safety and security of women;

(3) calls upon the international community to increase efforts to accelerate the elimination of female genital mutilation or cutting; and

(4) urges the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to incorporate coordinated efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation or cutting into the gender programs of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, respectively.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5687

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5687) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Brasher nomination under the previous order; and finally, I ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN and Senator ENZI.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, thank you, and I thank the Republican leader.

Last month, while this body was trying, as we know—and failing—to hold the President accountable for betraying the American people, President Trump went to Davos, and he doubled down on another betrayal of the American people.

While he was hobnobbing with the global elite in Switzerland, he let slip his plan, after his tax handouts to billionaires and corporations blew up the deficit—we know deficits now. Thanks to Republican governing, thanks to

this President's tax cut and my Republican colleagues going along with this tax cut that went overwhelmingly to the wealthiest people in this country, the budget deficit has just skyrocketed. We know all that. President Trump now wants to pay for it by cutting Social Security and Medicare. He wants to pay for it by cutting Social Security and Medicare.

Today we got President Trump's budget. This document makes it clear how he wants to pay for his tax scam—on the backs of working families and seniors.

I want to start with one that is of special interest in Ohio. We all know that just in the last 2 or 3 years—well, starting soon after President Trump was elected and then over about a year-and-a-half period, the Lordstown auto plant—about 4,500 jobs—shut down. President Trump had promised those workers—he said to Mahoning Valley: Don't sell your homes. These jobs are coming back. This is going to work for us. And then the President Trump did absolutely nothing. The third shift was laid off. The second shift laid was off. The first shift was laid off. The plant closed, and there were 4,500 lost jobs.

I have been working with Senator PORTMAN—my Republican colleague—and others on getting somebody to come into that plant. It will not just be the 4,500 good UAW jobs, but it could be, potentially, a good many jobs. There was a loan program that we and this company were going to use to make sure they could, if you will, re-industrialize part of the Lordstown complex. Well, the President's budget axed that plan, that loan program. We were counting on that as a way to replace some of those jobs that the President of the United States promised would come back, and now we can't even count on that. There is that.

Then, in addition to the cuts to Medicare and Social Security, he is taking a sledgehammer to Medicaid, to food stamps, to investments in infrastructure, and support for rural communities and small towns. He wants to make it harder to clean up our drinking water and stop polluters.

At a time when one in four renters spends more than half of their income in housing, he wants to make it harder to help families find and afford loans for a home. Pretty much the only ones who escaped unscathed, the only ones the President's budget acts didn't hit: corporations and their wealthy, unaccountable CEOs. To fund their tax cuts—again, the tax cuts 2 years ago—70 percent of the tax cuts went to the wealthiest 1 percent of people in this country. To pay for those tax cuts that have exploded the Federal budget deficit—you don't have to be an accountant like my friend from Wyoming to understand what has happened to this deficit—President Trump wants to ask more from families struggling to make ends meet, the families he promised to fight for, the families he has betrayed. He wants to ask more of seniors and

people with disabilities and students and kids who need healthcare, all to pay for this tax scam.

President Trump sold us a tax cut for working people, but the jig is up. We know people aren't seeing more money in their paychecks. People see Trump's tax scam for what it really was: a giveaway to corporations and the wealthiest, tiny sliver of the population.

Remember the promises the President made that his tax law would mean raises for workers? He said it over and over. I was in the President's Cabinet room with the President and a handful of Senators from both parties. He promised, before it passed, With this tax bill, everybody will get a \$4,000 raise, he said—well, not exactly true.

He told workers last year, the month after he signed the law, You are going to start seeing a lot more money in your paycheck.

One lie after another lie after another lie. Instead of investing in workers, corporations bought back trillions—literally, trillions—of dollars of their own stock to line investors' pockets. Meanwhile, the deficit exploded.

We know what the corporate crowd's plan always is to deal with the deficit, every single time: cut taxes, blow a hole in the deficit, and then go back and pay for it by cuts to Social Security and Medicare. How do we know that is what they are going to do? Because they told us that is what they are going to do. In spring 2017, right after President Trump was elected, the Wall Street Journal ran an op-ed by economist Martin Feldstein, who has built his career pushing tax cuts for his rich friends.

Guess how he wanted President Trump to pay for his corporate giveaway? In those days, the President said, We will have so much economic growth that it will pay for itself. Well, the economic growth has been less in these 3 years of Trump than in the last 3 years of Obama, but that is not the point. The point is he said it would pay for itself.

Well, Martin Feldstein didn't believe that. He knew. He said in this article that it will not pay for itself; it will pay a little bit. But he said the best way to do it is raise the Social Security retirement age. It looks like President Trump was listening to Martin Feldstein.

It always comes back to whose side are you on. You stand with workers, or you stand with corporations. You stand with insurance companies, or you stand with patients. You stand with Wall Street, or you stand with consumers.

Do you fight for Wall Street wealth? Or do you fight for the dignity of work? If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work. The President promised to fight for American workers and their families. This budget he released today is the latest in a long line of broken promises and betrayals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Wyoming.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suspect I couldn't have come to the floor at a better time. The President's budget did come out today. It consists of a set of documents a foot high. In my opinion, the whole pile should be replaced with a list from the President of what he thinks are pretty good ideas to do this year.

I want to encourage people, including the Senator from Ohio, not to waste any time searching out the President's budget cuts. Nobody has listened to the President in the 23 years that I have been here. Congress doesn't pay attention to the President's budget exercise. I don't know why we put him through that. That is all it is.

Congress holds the pursestrings, according to the Constitution. Congress is very protective of that constitutional authority. If you don't believe me, watch all the rhetoric that comes out on the President's budget. I am hoping that I hear something positive on it, but it is pretty hard to find anything positive with the funding situation that we are in. I do have to take issue with something that was just said here, that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act hasn't worked. It has worked.

Now, a very important thing for everybody to know: The problem that we are in right now with our deficits doesn't have to do with the dollars that are coming in. The first year after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we took in more revenue than ever before. More people had jobs. More people were paying taxes. Companies were paying more taxes. They were doing more business. That results in more taxes. So, that first year, we got more money than we had ever had to spend before.

The second year, we had more money than the first year. We keep getting more money to spend. The problem is we have no control over our urge to spend. Since CBO's June 2019 Long-Term Budget Outlook, Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation that would add more than \$2 trillion to our national debt over the next 10 years. That is how we are spending.

The increased spending caps from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 are responsible for \$1.7 trillion of that \$2.1 trillion. It does include interest costs, but that is what we have to pay any time we have a debt. That \$1.7 trillion passed with no debate. There was a budget point of order. I had established a budget point of order, which takes 60 votes. I missed by four being able to stop that. We can't spend that way. But that isn't the President's budget. That is our budget.

Over the next few days, you will hear lots of complaints about the President's budget. Seldom will anybody mention anything good, and it has been that way for every President. You will