

The amendment (No. 1460) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “on December 1, 2019” and insert “in early December 2019”.

Strike the ninth whereas clause of the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the people of China expressed their grief and anger on social media after the death of Dr. Li with the phrase “I want freedom of speech,” which was swiftly censored by the Government of the People’s Republic of China;

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 497

Whereas Dr. Li Wenliang was a 34-year-old ophthalmologist working in Wuhan, China;

Whereas research indicates that the first patient infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) exhibited symptoms in early December 2019;

Whereas, in December 2019, Dr. Li notified his associates in the medical community in China about the outbreak of 2019-nCoV;

Whereas, after raising concerns about the spread of 2019-nCoV, Dr. Li was summoned by Chinese officials and forced to sign a statement retracting his warnings about the virus and confessing that he had spread illegal rumors;

Whereas Chinese government authorities played down dangers to the public for weeks as 2019-nCoV continued to spread, with more than 42,000 confirmed cases in China alone and at least 1,000 deaths reported as of February 11, 2020;

Whereas Dr. Li continued to work as an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital despite his knowledge of the outbreak, and appears to have been infected himself with 2019-nCoV after coming in contact with a patient he was treating for glaucoma;

Whereas, on the morning of February 7, 2020, in the hospital where he worked, Dr. Li Wenliang died after contracting 2019-nCoV;

Whereas, before he passed away, Dr. Li stated, “If the officials had disclosed information about the epidemic earlier, I think it would have been a lot better. There should be more openness and transparency.”;

Whereas the people of China expressed their grief and anger on social media after the death of Dr. Li with the phrase “I want freedom of speech,” which was swiftly censored by the Government of the People’s Republic of China;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China continues to limit free expression, and stepped up censorship after online criticism and investigative reports by Chinese journalists suggesting that officials underestimated and underplayed the threat of 2019-nCoV;

Whereas Freedom House has listed China as the “worst abuser of internet freedom” in the world for the fourth year in a row, and in the aftermath of the outbreak of 2019-nCoV, there are numerous and well-documented instances of the “Great Firewall” of China suppressing the free flow of critical and medically important information about the pandemic;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China has endangered the people of Taiwan and people around the world by using its influence to limit Taiwan’s access to the benefits of membership in the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, particularly during the current outbreak; and

Whereas the World Health Organization has declared 2019-nCoV a Public Health

Emergency of International Concern: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and contributions of Dr. Li Wenliang, and extends heartfelt sympathy to his family and to the families of all who have passed during this outbreak;

(2) expresses its support for the people of China as they face this unprecedented public health challenge;

(3) expresses gratitude to Dr. Li and all Chinese medical personnel and citizens for their efforts to spread awareness of 2019-nCoV and treat individuals who have contracted the disease;

(4) calls on the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Communist Party of China—

(A) to be open and transparent in investigating and responding to 2019-nCoV;

(B) to ensure that Chinese citizens and the international community have free and unfettered access, without censorship or social media controls, to information about 2019-nCoV;

(C) to cooperate fully with the United States Government, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in providing medical access, sharing information, and developing treatment to combat 2019-nCoV;

(D) to cooperate fully with other governments, especially those in Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, and other regions whose health systems already face high burdens and are operating from a lower base of capability, as well as international health organizations in combating 2019-nCoV; and

(E) to cease efforts to exclude Taiwan from international organizations, including the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization;

(5) affirms the vital importance of Dr. Li’s belief that “[t]here should be more openness and transparency” in China;

(6) affirms that freedom of expression is a social good that enables experts to sound public health warnings and helps citizens ensure that their government addresses weaknesses in crisis response; and

(7) strongly supports the people of China in their demand for freedom of speech.

DIGNITY IN AGING ACT OF 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 280, H.R. 4334.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4334) to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Collins substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed.

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

The amendment (No. 1461) was agreed to.

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

(The amendment is printed in today’s RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 4334), as amended, was passed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 4; 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; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2657, and that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time on the motion to proceed to S. 2657 be considered expired at 10:30 a.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:38 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

J. PHILIP CALABRESE, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, VICE CHRISTOPHER A. BOYKO, RETIRED.

JAMES RAY KNEPP II, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, VICE JACK ZOUHARY, RETIRED.

BRETT H. LUDWIG, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN, VICE RUDOLPH T. RANDA, RETIRED.

MICHAEL JAY NEWMAN, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, VICE MICHAEL RYAN BARRETT, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER Z. BARRA
COL. JOHN C. HAFLEY
COL. JEFFREY B. MCCARTER
COL. JONATHAN C. MOYER
COL. PEDER SWANSON