

5. WHO IS ON FLAGPOLE?—IMPROVE COORDINATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Many commenters also addressed the lack of consistent coordination between the federal government, states, and the private sector and uncertainty over federal leadership during a pandemic. Generally, commenters agreed that the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is the right entity to coordinate the day-to-day operational response to a public health emergency. However, multiple commenters noted that ASPR does not have sufficient authority to direct the activities of other departments and agencies, which is necessary during a whole-of-government response. Additionally, these commenters noted that White House involvement, both during a response and when there is no public health emergency in effect, is necessary to ensuring coordination among departments and agencies and that public health preparedness remains a top priority, even after COVID-19. Some commenters recommended reestablishing an office within the National Security Council focused on biodefense to institutionalize this responsibility.

6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

A theme across all responses was a specific need for increased and sustained funding for public health preparedness programs. Over the past several decades, funding for these programs at the federal, state, and local levels has experienced inconsistencies. In areas where funding has occasionally increased, such as for research, development, and procurement of medical countermeasures, these increases have been relatively modest and often not consistent year to year. This variability in funding has led to uncertainty from the private sector and other levels of government that these capabilities will be there when the country needs to respond to a public health threat. Without sustained and reliable funding for these programs, commenters stated that we will not be prepared for the next pandemic.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 652—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING PRE-CONDITIONS FOR THE READMISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION INTO A RECONSTITUTED GROUP OF EIGHT OR PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP OF SEVEN

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 652

Whereas, since 2014, the Russian Federation has illegally occupied Crimea and Donbass, which was condemned in the Senate by passage of Senate Resolution 378 by unanimous consent in the 113th Congress;

Whereas, in March 2014, the Group of Eight suspended the Russian Federation as a direct result of its actions in Ukraine and instead continued as the Group of Seven;

Whereas, since 2014, the Russian Federation has also continued malign attacks on western democracies, including ongoing ag-

gressive cyber and military provocations; and

Whereas the Russian Federation has reportedly offered bounties to kill members of the United States Armed Forces deployed in Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that, as precondition for readmission into a reconstituted Group of Eight or participation in a Group of Seven proceeding, the Russian Federation must—

(1) end its illegal occupation of Crimea and Donbass;

(2) cease its malign activities against the United States and its allies; and

(3) terminate any bounties against members of the United States Armed Forces.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2436. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2437. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2438. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. SASSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2439. Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. SASSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2440. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2441. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2442. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2443. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2444. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2445. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2446. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2447. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2448. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2449. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2450. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2451. Ms. WARREN (for Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BROWN)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Ms. WARREN to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2452. Ms. WARREN (for Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. HIRONO)) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2453. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2454. Ms. McSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2455. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. UDALL, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2456. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2457. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2458. Ms. McSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2459. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2460. Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2461. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2462. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S.

4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2463. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2464. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2465. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2466. Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2467. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2468. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2469. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2470. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2471. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2472. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2473. Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, and Mr. SASSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2474. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2475. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2476. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2477. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. UDALL, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2478. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2479. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2480. Mr. SCOTT, of Florida (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. MCSALLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2436. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 382. EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO EXTEND CONTRACTS AND LEASES UNDER THE ARMS INITIATIVE.

Section 343 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (10 U.S.C. 7554 note) is amended by striking “the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “November 25, 2025.”.

SA 2437. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2301 proposed by Mr. INHOFE to the bill S. 4049, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 752. EVALUATION OF EXPOSURE TO OPEN BURN PITS AND TOXIC AIRBORNE CHEMICALS OR OTHER AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR A PANDEMIC VIRUS AND INCLUSION OF INFORMATION IN REGISTRY.

(a) EVALUATION OF DUAL EXPOSURE.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the first health assessment conducted by the Department of Defense for a member of the Armed Forces after the member tested positive for a virus certified by the Federal Government as a pandemic includes an evaluation described in paragraph (3).

(2) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the first health care examination conducted for a veteran under the laws administered by the Secretary after the veteran tested positive for a virus certified by the Federal Government as a pandemic includes an evaluation described in paragraph (3).

(3) EVALUATION DESCRIBED.—An evaluation described in this paragraph conducted with respect to an individual is an evaluation of whether the individual has been—

(A) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used; or

(B) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals or other airborne contaminants relating to service in the Armed Forces, including an evaluation of any information recorded as part of the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

(4) INCLUSION IN MEDICAL RECORDS.—If the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, pursuant to an evaluation conducted under this subsection, determines that an individual who tested positive for a virus certified by the Federal Government as a pandemic was also based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used or exposed to toxic airborne chemicals or other airborne contaminants relating to service in the Armed Forces, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as the case may be, shall include in the medical record of the individual information regarding the positive test result and the exposure to burn pits or other airborne chemicals or contaminants.

(b) INCLUSION OF INDIVIDUALS IN REGISTRY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an evaluation conducted under subsection (a) with respect to an individual establishes that the individual was based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used, or that the individual was exposed to toxic airborne chemicals or other airborne contaminants, the individual shall be enrolled in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry unless the member elects to not enroll in such registry.

(2) MECHANISM FOR ENROLLMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a mechanism for the enrollment of individuals in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry under paragraph (1).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude eligibility of a veteran for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by reason of the history of exposure of the veteran to an open burn pit not being recorded in an evaluation conducted under subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY.—The term “Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry” means the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) OPEN BURN PIT.—The term “open burn pit” has the meaning given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

SEC. 753. STUDY ON IMPACT OF VIRAL PANDEMICS ON MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TOXIC EXPOSURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct a study, through the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence (in this section referred to as the “Center”), on the health impacts of infection with a virus designated as a global pandemic, including a coronavirus, to members of the Armed Forces and veterans who have been exposed to open burn pits and other toxic exposures for the purposes of understanding the health impacts of the virus and whether individuals infected with the virus are at increased risk of severe symptoms due to previous conditions linked to toxic exposure.