

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—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING PRECONDITIONS 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.