

ensure the continued effectiveness of the Act in protecting the voting rights of all citizens of the United States;

(3) commits itself to fully restoring section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and modernizing and strengthening the Voting Rights Act of 1965 through further legislative efforts; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 672—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2020 AS NATIONAL DEMOCRACY MONTH AS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE FREE AND STABLE WORLD**

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 672

Whereas, 2,000 years after the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for democracy, the founders of the United States built an even greater system of government, a democratic republic, propelling the United States to become the most advanced nation in human history;

Whereas the model of government of the United States has been reproduced around the world;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, more than 1 in 3 people in the world do not live in states considered free;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, with the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, including the 14th and 15th Amendments, and the 19th Amendment, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;

Whereas the perpetuation of the ideals of democracy does not happen on its own and can be stalled or reversed;

Whereas surveys show that citizens of the United States are losing faith in the democratic system;

Whereas former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said, "The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens.";

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said, "Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to untiring effort, to continual sacrifice and to the willingness, if necessary, to die in its defense.";

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said, "Democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man.";

Whereas World War II demonstrated the fragility of democracy and the civilized life that accompanies democracy;

Whereas British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed that, "Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time . . .";

Whereas President George Washington said the United States must recognize the immense value of the national Union and work towards preservation of that Union with "jealous anxiety" and wrote that the security of a free Constitution may be accomplished by "teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights";

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Educate and inform the whole mass

of the people . . . They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."; and

Whereas the Government of the United States must teach and educate the people by taking appropriate actions to highlight and emphasize the importance of democratic principles and the essential role of democratic principles in the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2020 as "National Democracy Month";

(2) encourages States and local governments to designate September 2020 as "National Democracy Month";

(3) recognizes the celebration of "National Democracy Month" as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe "National Democracy Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide appreciation for the system of government of the United States; and

(B) demonstrate that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices made by past generations of people of the United States to preserve the freedoms and principles of the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 673—AFFIRMING THAT THE NEW START TREATY EXTENSION WILL COVER NEW DEPLOYED RUSSIAN NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AND SUPPORTING ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES TO ENGAGE CHINA THAT ADVANCE THE GOAL OF CONCLUDING AN ARMS CONTROL TREATY OR AGREEMENT**

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 673

Whereas, on March 1, 2018, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation previewed five new Russian nuclear delivery systems in his State of the Nation address;

Whereas two of the new systems, the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, will count under the limits of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (commonly referred to as the "New START Treaty"), as confirmed by Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation;

Whereas an additional pair of new systems, the Poseidon nuclear-powered torpedo and the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile, are not projected to be deployed during the five-year extension of the New START Treaty to 2026, and even if they were deployed, the United States is able to address its concerns about those weapons through the Bilateral Consultative Committee;

Whereas the Russian Federation's fifth new system, the Kinzhal short-range air-launched ballistic missile, is being deployed as a theater-strike weapon on MiG-31 air-

craft, rather than on a heavy bomber, in which case it would be automatically accountable under the New START Treaty;

Whereas the advance timing of the Russian Federation's nuclear modernization cycle may allow it to significantly expand its strategic nuclear arsenal relative to the United States in the event that the New START Treaty expires on February 5, 2021;

Whereas the 2020 Annual Report on the Implementation of the new START Treaty concluded that the Russian Federation was "in compliance with the terms of the New START Treaty";

Whereas the People's Republic of China has never entered into a treaty or agreement with the United States or any other party that places binding limits on its shorter-range, intermediate-, or strategic-range ballistic missiles, verified by National Technical Means and by on-site inspections, as the United States and Russian Federation did through the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the START I and START II Treaties, and the New START Treaty, each of which took multiple years to successfully negotiate;

Whereas the People's Republic of China possesses significantly fewer ICBMs, submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and heavy bombers than the Russian Federation or the United States, and according to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), China's warhead stockpile is in the "the low couple of hundreds", a fraction of the size of the arsenals of the Russian Federation and the United States; and

Whereas the People's Republic of China has repeatedly declined invitations by the United States to enter into trilateral negotiations on an arms control treaty or other agreement regarding its nuclear arsenal: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the President to immediately extend the New START Treaty until 2026;

(2) affirms that, by extending the New START Treaty until 2026, the President of the United States can secure limitations on two new types of Russian Federation strategic weapons beyond those accountable when the Treaty entered into force in 2011 or at any time thereafter;

(3) calls on the Russian Federation to cease the development of hazardous and provocative new weapons systems including the Burevestnik cruise missile, which is powered by a nuclear reactor and may violate the prohibition in numerous treaties and military manuals against causing superfluous injury and unnecessary suffering;

(4) affirms the December 1987 statement by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought";

(5) calls on the President to consider the views of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other United States allies and partners who overwhelmingly back extension of the New START Treaty; and

(6) supports, following the extension of the New START Treaty, a United States initiative to engage China in negotiations towards the eventual conclusion of an arms control treaty or agreement, starting with steps to reduce the risk of strategic miscalculation and the threat of a nuclear exchange, which may include—

(A) a formal invitation to appropriate officials from the People's Republic of China, and to each of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, to observe a United States-Russian Federation New START Treaty on-site inspection in 2020 to demonstrate the security benefits of transparency into strategic nuclear forces;