

from Chinese security threats and encourages multilateral engagement in these efforts, including through the Blue Dot Network;

(4) commits to deepening defense, intelligence, and economic ties with India in line with fulfilling the full potential of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership; and

(5) supports bilateral and multilateral partnerships, such as the Quadrilateral Dialogue, to promote a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 681—RECOGNIZING THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS WHO WORKED ON THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD FROM 1865 TO 1869 AND THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE RAILROAD WORKERS TO THE GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

**S. RES. 681**

Whereas the Transcontinental Railroad was 1 of the most remarkable engineering feats of the 19th century;

Whereas construction of the nearly 2,000-mile Transcontinental Railroad spanned 6 years;

Whereas the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad facilitated commerce and reduced cross-country travel time from 6 months to 1 week;

Whereas nearly 12,000 Chinese immigrants (referred to in this preamble as the “Chinese railroad workers”) were employed in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, constituting more than 80 percent of the workforce of the Central Pacific Railroad Company;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers were—

(1) considered indispensable by the foremen on the project; and

(2) respected for their work ethic and discipline;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers set a world record by laying 10 miles of railroad track in just 1 work day;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers were—

(1) given the most difficult and dangerous jobs; and

(2) paid lower wages than other railroad workers;

Whereas nearly 1,200 Chinese railroad workers died from work accidents, avalanches, and explosions while working in the Sierra Nevada Mountains;

Whereas, in honor of the courage shown by the Chinese railroad workers in organizing for fair wages and safe working conditions, the Department of Labor inducted the Chinese railroad workers into the Labor Hall of Honor in 2014;

Whereas the fight of the Chinese railroad workers against discrimination set an example for millions of Asian Americans who later came to the United States;

Whereas the descendants of the Chinese railroad workers and the wider Asian-American community view the sacrifices of the Chinese railroad workers as integral to the creation of the vibrant and growing Asian-American community that exists throughout the United States; and

Whereas the legacy of the Chinese railroad workers continues to have a profound and positive impact on life in the United States by advancing the ideals of equal opportunity

and the dignity of work for everyone: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the Chinese immigrants who worked on the Transcontinental Railroad from 1865 to 1869 (referred to in this resolving clause as the “Chinese railroad workers”); and

(B) the contributions of the Chinese railroad workers to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad and the growth of the United States;

(2) honors the Chinese railroad workers who lost their lives working in the Sierra Nevada Mountains; and

(3) acknowledges all of the risks faced by the Chinese railroad workers in completing the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad while enduring discrimination and unequal pay and treatment.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 682—RECOGNIZING THE DEVASTATING EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED THE PORT OF BEIRUT ON AUGUST 4, 2020, AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEBANESE PEOPLE**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

**S. RES. 682**

Whereas, on August 4, 2020, 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated at the Port of Beirut, killing more than 200 people and injuring thousands more;

Whereas the dangerous and highly explosive material was unsafely stored at the Port of Beirut since 2014, despite repeated warnings over the threat the stockpile posed to the surrounding civilian population;

Whereas the Secretary General of the Lebanese Red Cross was quoted as saying, “What we are witnessing is a huge catastrophe.”;

Whereas the blast destroyed vast swaths of infrastructure across Beirut and displaced up to 300,000 people;

Whereas the blast destroyed or damaged the entire port of Beirut, through which Lebanon imports the bulk of its food, including the destruction of approximately 120,000 metric tons of desperately needed food stocks, according to the United Nations;

Whereas, prior to the blast, nearly 1,000,000 people in the Beirut metropolitan area, including more than 500,000 children, did not have the means to buy basic essentials, including food;

Whereas Lebanon already struggles to support the largest per-capita population of refugees in the world, including nearly 1,000,000 Syrian refugees currently registered with the United Nations;

Whereas the governor of Beirut predicted that the full cost of recovery and relief could be between \$3,000,000,000 and \$5,000,000,000;

Whereas several Beirut hospitals, already struggling to procure medical equipment and pay medical staff amid the spread of COVID-19, have sustained too much blast damage to admit new patients;

Whereas the blasts coincides with a period of protracted political crisis in Lebanon;

Whereas, after months of political deadlock, Lebanon formed a government in January of this year with the backing of Hezbollah, a United States-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), and its allies;

Whereas endemic corruption and Hezbollah’s mismanagement has led Lebanon

to the brink of economic collapse, including an 80 percent currency devaluation since 2019, one of the highest rates of public debt, food insecurity, and hyperinflation;

Whereas the United States Government has longstanding concerns about Hezbollah’s use of and influence over the Beirut port as a transit and storage point for its terrorist enterprise;

Whereas the people of Lebanon across the political spectrum have renewed demands for a meaningful change in Lebanon’s political leadership, government accountability, and transparency;

Whereas, following the explosion and public outcry from the Lebanese people, Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced on August 10, 2020, that he and his government would step down;

Whereas international donors, including the United States, have pledged \$297,000,000 in aid to Lebanon at a virtual summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron;

Whereas the United States, through the United States Agency for International Development, announced on August 7, 2020, that it would provide more than \$15,000,000 in humanitarian assistance to aid the people of Lebanon following the explosions at the Port of Beirut, and that these funds would support life-saving medical responses and relief for the immediate needs of people facing this tragedy, including food aid for 50,000 people for three months and medical and pharmaceutical support for up to 60,000 people for three months; and

Whereas a stable Lebanon with a credible, transparent government free from Iranian and Hezbollah interference is in the broader national security interests of the United States and United States partners and allies: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends its heartfelt condolences to, and stands with, the people of Lebanon;

(2) supports United States Government efforts to provide emergency humanitarian relief in concert with other governments and international partners;

(3) affirms that United States assistance, led by the United States Agency for International Development, should be delivered directly to the Lebanese people through properly vetted channels, organizations, and individuals;

(4) calls on the Government of Lebanon to conduct a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation into the cause of, and responsibility for, the explosion, and include impartial international experts as part of the investigation team;

(5) calls on the investigation team to evaluate and determine the root causes of instability and economic mismanagement that have impacted the people of Lebanon; and

(6) further calls on the Government of Lebanon to restore faith and confidence by prioritizing policies and programs that advance the interests of the people of Lebanon.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 683—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST 2020 AS “WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK”, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 2020 AS “NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH”**

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 683

Whereas all major medical authorities recommend exclusive breastfeeding for about the first 6 months of life and continued breastfeeding for not less than the first year of life;

Whereas the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action has designated the first week of August as “World Breastfeeding Week”, and the United States Breastfeeding Committee has designated August as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

Whereas National Breastfeeding Month focuses on how data and measurements can be used to build and reinforce the connections between breastfeeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics and initiatives;

Whereas World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month provide important opportunities to address barriers to breastfeeding faced by families across the United States and around the world;

Whereas breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness;

Whereas the evidence of the value of breastfeeding to the health of women and children is scientific, solid, and continually reaffirmed by new research;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes an annual Breastfeeding Report Card, which has found that, while the proportion of infants who were ever breastfed in the United States is increasing, the United States continues to miss targets for exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life;

Whereas there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in access to breastfeeding support, resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an associated increase in risk for a variety of negative health outcomes;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, the National Immunization Survey reports that 86.6 percent of White infants have ever been breastfed, while—

(1) 74 percent of Black infants have ever been breastfed; and

(2) 79.5 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native infants have ever been breastfed;

Whereas the Healthy People initiative of the Department of Health and Human Services has consistently identified breastfeeding as a national health priority;

Whereas the majority of new parents want to breastfeed but face significant barriers in community, health care, and employment settings;

Whereas, while some parents may choose not to breastfeed or are unable to breastfeed, all parents can benefit from access to education on infant nutrition and wellness;

Whereas protecting and supporting breastfeeding for parents who are able to breastfeed is essential to ensuring critical food security and immunologic protection for the youngest residents of the United States; and

Whereas the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of breastfeeding show that breastfeeding is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends many times over across the United States and for families, employers, and government entities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of August 2020 as “World Breastfeeding Week”;

(2) designates August 2020 as “National Breastfeeding Month”;

(3) supports the goals of World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month; and

(4) supports policies and funding to ensure that all parents who choose to breastfeed can

access a full range of appropriate support from child care and health care institutions, health care insurers, employers, researchers, and government entities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO ACHIEVE RESOLUTION AND REPAYMENT OF THE DEFAULTED SOVEREIGN DEBT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HELD BY 20,000 FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN BONDHOLDERS FOUNDATION, LLC

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas sovereign debt obligations (in this preamble referred to as “bonds”) of the Government of the People's Republic of China were offered and sold in United States capital markets;

Whereas the bonds constitute full faith and credit sovereign obligations of the internationally recognized Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the People's Republic of China subsequently defaulted on those bonds;

Whereas the bonds constitute an unpaid general obligation of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, under the successor government doctrine of settled international law (relating to establishing the continuity of obligations among successor governments), the repayment obligation for the bonds is the obligation of the Government of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to refuse to repay the bonds held by United States citizens and has officially repudiated the debts, which is a clear violation of United States law, international law, and the rules and regulations of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China honored repayment of the exact same bonds held by citizens of the United Kingdom while rejecting the claims of citizens of the United States;

Whereas, since the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China in the 1970s, the United States has shown good will to the People's Republic of China by focusing on an expansion of bilateral trade while deferring discussion of repayment of the People's Republic of China's defaulted national debt;

Whereas, under standard legal principles, the People's Republic of China's defaulted sovereign gold debt has been accumulating compound interest for more 82 years and is estimated to exceed the total amount of the United States national debt to the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, as representative of United States bondholders who own the People's Republic of China's defaulted sovereign gold bonds, American Bondholders Foundation, LLC, has proposed using the People's Republic of China's obligations as payment for the United States national debt to the People's Republic of China;

Whereas, the Government of the People's Republic of China covered up the outbreak of

the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID-19”) during its early stages, resulting in a global pandemic and more than \$2,000,000,000,000 in financial damage to the United States; and

Whereas the United States Government pays its debts, and so should the Government of the People's Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the President should do everything in his power to achieve resolution and repayment of the defaulted sovereign debt of the People's Republic of China held by 20,000 families in the United States who are represented by the American Bondholders Foundation, LLC, for the benefit of the bondholders and the people of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2651. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2499 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2651.** Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2499 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION GRANTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation shall use any amounts made available to the Secretary for grant programs for covered projects, and not otherwise obligated, to provide additional funds to covered projects.

(b) **AMOUNT.**—In providing additional funds for a covered project under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall provide an amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the total project costs.

(c) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—Amounts made available for a covered project under subsection (a) shall not be counted toward the Federal share of the project.

(d) **MODIFICATIONS TO AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary of Transportation shall modify a grant agreement for a covered project as necessary to provide additional funds under subsection (a) in accordance with the amount determined under subsection (b).

(e) **DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.**—In this section, the term “covered project” means a highway project, a public transportation project, a rural transportation project, or a tribal transportation project that—

(1) during the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) has been awarded a grant under a competitive grant program of the Secretary of Transportation; or