

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: