

initiative explicitly dedicated to supporting and enhancing our nation's school libraries. The key improvements to the program include ensuring that elementary, middle, and high school students are served; expanding professional development to include digital literacy instruction and reading and writing instruction across all grade levels; focusing on coordination and shared planning time between teachers and librarians; awarding grants for a period of three years; and ensuring that books and materials are appropriate for and gain the interest of students with special learning needs, including English learners.

The SKILLS Act would also strengthen Title I by asking state and school district plans to address the development of effective school library programs to help students gain digital literacy skills, master the knowledge and skills in the challenging academic content standards adopted by the state, and graduate from high school ready for college and careers. Additionally, the legislation would broaden the focus of training, professional development, and recruitment activities under Title II to include school librarians.

Absent a clear federal investment, the libraries in many of our high poverty schools will languish with outdated materials and technology, and in turn, students would be cut off from a vital information hub that connects them to the tools they need to develop critical thinking and research skills necessary for success. This is a true equity issue, which is why I will continue to fight to sustain our federal investment in this area and why renewing and strengthening the school library program is of critical importance.

I urge our colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring the bipartisan Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries Act, and to work together to ensure that it becomes a part of the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 164—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2013, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WORKERS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 164

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas those dedicated workers paid a high price for their service to develop a nuclear weapons program for the benefit of the

United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contribution, service, and sacrifice those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009, Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010, Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011, and Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

Whereas a national day of remembrance time capsule has been crossing the United States, collecting artifacts and the stories of nuclear weapons program workers relating to the nuclear defense era of the United States, and a remembrance quilt has been constructed to memorialize the contribution of those workers;

Whereas the stories and artifacts reflected in the time capsule and the remembrance quilt reinforce the importance of recognizing nuclear weapons program workers; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contribution, service, and sacrifice they have made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2013, as a national day of remembrance for the nuclear weapons program workers, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, of the United States; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2013, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers in the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 165—CALLING FOR THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF UKRAINE YULIA TYMOSHENKO IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS RULING

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 165

Whereas, in August 1991, the Ukrainian Parliament declared independence from the Soviet Union and approved decrees to mint its own currency and take command of all Soviet military units on its soil;

Whereas, in December 1991, 90 percent of Ukrainians voted in a referendum to support independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas Ukraine has experienced increased economic and political cooperation with Europe and the United States since its independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas, in 1996, Ukraine adopted its first democratic constitution that included basic freedoms of speech, assembly, religion, and press;

Whereas in 2004, Ukrainians organized a series of historic protests, strikes, and sit-ins known as the "Orange Revolution" to protest electoral fraud in the 2004 presidential election;

Whereas Yulia Tymoshenko was a leader of the Orange Revolution and was first elected as Prime Minister in 2005;

Whereas, in the 2010 presidential election, incumbent President Viktor Yushchenko won only 5.5 percent in the first round of voting, which left former Prime Minister Viktor

Yanukovich and then Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to face one another in a run-off election;

Whereas Mr. Yanukovich defeated Ms. Tymoshenko by a margin of 49 percent to 44 percent;

Whereas, on October 11, 2011, Ms. Tymoshenko was found guilty and sentenced to seven years in prison on charges that she abused her position as Prime Minister in connection with a Russian natural gas contract;

Whereas, on January 26, 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE) passed a resolution (1862) that declared that the articles under which Ms. Tymoshenko was convicted were "overly broad in application and effectively allow for ex post facto criminalization of normal political decision making";

Whereas, on May 30, 2012, the European Parliament passed a resolution (C153/21) deploring the sentencing of Ms. Tymoshenko;

Whereas, on September 22, 2012, the United States Senate passed a resolution (S. Res 466, 112th Congress) that condemned the selective and politically motivated prosecution and imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko, called for her release, and called on the Department of State to institute a visa ban against those responsible for the imprisonment of Ms. Tymoshenko and the other political leaders associated with the 2004 Orange Revolution;

Whereas, on April 7, 2013, President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich pardoned former interior minister Yuri Lutsenko and several other opposition figures allied with Ms. Tymoshenko;

Whereas, on April 30, 2013, the European Court of Human Rights, which settles cases of rights abuses after plaintiffs have exhausted appeals in their home country courts, ruled that Ms. Tymoshenko's pre-trial detention had been arbitrary; that the lawfulness of her detention had not been properly reviewed; that her right to liberty had been restricted; and, that she had no possibility to seek compensation for her unlawful deprivation of liberty;

Whereas, on April 30, 2013, Department of State Spokesman Patrick Ventrell reiterated the United States call that Ms. Tymoshenko "be released and that the practice of selective prosecution end immediately" in light of the European Court of Human Rights decision;

Whereas Ukraine hopes to sign an association agreement with the European Union during the Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2013; and

Whereas, after the European Court of Human Rights ruling, European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs chairman Elmar Brok stated that "Ukraine is still miles away from fulfilling European standards" and must "end its selective justice" before signing the association agreement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Government of Ukraine to release former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko from imprisonment in light of the April 2013 European Court of Human Rights verdict;

(2) calls on the European Union members to include the release of Ms. Tymoshenko from imprisonment as an important criterion for signing an association agreement with Ukraine at the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Lithuania;

(3) expresses its belief and hope that Ukraine's future rests with stronger ties to Europe, the United States, and others in the community of democracies; and

(4) expresses its concern and disappointment that the continued selective and politically motivated imprisonment of former