

Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations to enforce the subpoena issued by the Subcommittee to Carl Ferrer, Chief Executive Officer of Backpage.com, LLC, and that the Senate Legal Counsel shall conduct all related civil contempt proceedings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 378—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE COURAGEOUS WORK AND LIFE OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER BORIS YEFIMOVICH NEMTSOV AND RENEWING THE CALL FOR A FULL AND TRANSPARENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE TRAGIC MURDER OF BORIS YEFIMOVICH NEMTSOV IN MOSCOW ON FEBRUARY 27, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 378

Whereas February 27, 2016, marks the first anniversary of the murder of former Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov (referred to in this preamble as “Dr. Nemtsov”);

Whereas Dr. Nemtsov dedicated his life to the causes of freedom and human rights for the Russian people and sought to reduce the corruption in the government of Russia;

Whereas on February 27, 2015—

(1) Dr. Nemtsov was murdered on the Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge in Moscow in view of the Kremlin; and

(2) President Obama called for a “prompt, impartial, and transparent” investigation into the murder of Dr. Nemtsov;

Whereas on March 1, 2015, tens of thousands of people marched through central Moscow in remembrance of Dr. Nemtsov;

Whereas the Russian courts and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation have consistently rejected requests to qualify the murder of Dr. Nemtsov under Article 277 of the Russian Criminal Code as “an attempt on the life of a public statesman”;

Whereas within 10 days of the murder of Dr. Nemtsov, Chechen suspect Zaur Dadayev admitted to killing Dr. Nemtsov at the behest of Ruslan Geremeyev, a senior officer in the Sever Battalion of Chechnya;

Whereas on March 8, 2015, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov called Zaur Dadayev a “true patriot”;

Whereas on March 9, 2015, Mr. Kadyrov was awarded the Order of Honor by Russian President Vladimir Putin;

Whereas on January 20, 2016, Aleksandr Bastrykin, the chief of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation responsible for investigating the murder of Dr. Nemtsov, declared that the case had been fully solved;

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged only Ruslan Muhudinov, the driver of Ruslan Geremeyev, with organizing the murder of Dr. Nemtsov;

Whereas on May 26, 2015, Russian opposition activist Vladimir Kara-Murza, a close friend and colleague of Dr. Nemtsov, was severely poisoned by an unknown assailant, resulting in multiple organ failures and a coma;

Whereas on January 25, 2016, the daughter of Dr. Nemtsov, Zhanna Nemtsova, appealed to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to investigate the murder of her father;

Whereas on February 1, 2016, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov posted a video on Instagram that shows Russian opposition leaders Mikhail Kasyanov and Vladimir Kara-Murza through the crosshairs of a sniper rifle accompanied by the comment, “Those who did not understand, will understand”; and

Whereas the Russian Federation is a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, which have the capacity to conduct a more credible investigation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the legacy of courageous Russian opposition leader Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov, who dedicated his life to fighting corruption and promoting the principles of democracy, rule of law, and the inherent dignity of human beings;

(2) encourages the public release of all surveillance tapes in the area surrounding the crime scene to aid in the investigation;

(3) urges the United States Government, in official contacts with representatives of the Russian government, to emphasize the importance of bringing to justice all of the conspirators in the murder of Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov; and

(4) calls on the President to significantly increase United States Government support for the causes for which Boris Yefimovich Nemstov gave his life.

SENATE RESOLUTION 379—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WICKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BURR, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 379

Whereas in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .”;

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of America as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas in 2016, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have

fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, and the Tuskegee Airmen, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition they deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the “Father of Black History”, to enhance knowledge of Black history through the Journal of Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievement of Black people of the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated: “We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, ‘You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.’”;

Whereas since the founding of the United States, the Nation has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to trying again;

Whereas on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American man, as President of the United States; and

Whereas on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia, which will open to the public in the fall of 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on

the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation “indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

SENATE RESOLUTION 380—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 29, 2016 AS “RARE DISEASE DAY”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 380

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is one that affects a small number of patients and, in the United States, typically fewer than 200,000 individuals annually are affected by a rare disease or disorder;

Whereas, as of the date of approval of this resolution, nearly 7,000 rare diseases affect approximately 30,000,000 people in the United States and their families;

Whereas children with rare genetic diseases account for about 1/2 of the population affected by rare diseases in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases are serious and life-threatening and lack an effective treatment;

Whereas, as a result of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97-414; 96 Stat. 2049), there have been important advances made in the research of and treatment for rare diseases;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration (in this preamble referred to as the “FDA”) has made great strides in involving the patient in the drug review process as part of the Patient-Focused Drug Development program, an initiative that originated in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-144; 126 Stat. 993);

Whereas, although approximately 500 drugs and biological products for the treatment of rare diseases have been approved by the FDA, millions of people in the United States have a rare disease for which there is no such approved treatment;

Whereas lack of access to effective treatments and difficulty in obtaining reimbursement for life-altering, and even life-saving, treatments still exist and remain significant challenges for people with rare diseases and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and conditions include epidermolysis bullosa, progeria, sickle cell anemia, spinal muscular atrophy, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Tay-Sachs disease, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary fibrosis, many childhood cancers, fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva, Smith-Magenis syndrome, Batten disease, and hemophilia;

Whereas people with rare diseases experience challenges that include difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses, limited treatment options, and difficulty finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in the rare diseases;

Whereas the rare disease community made significant progress during the 113th Congress, including the passage of the National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-55; 127 Stat. 644), which calls special attention to rare diseases and directs the National Institutes of Health (in this preamble referred to as the “NIH”) to facilitate greater collaboration among researchers;

Whereas the rare disease community continued this progress through the first session of the 114th Congress, including the passage of the Ensuring Access to Clinical Trials Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-63; 129 Stat. 549) and through increased funding for orphan products and rare disease research;

Whereas both the FDA and the NIH have established special offices to advocate for rare disease research and treatments;

Whereas the National Organization for Rare Disorders (in this preamble referred to as “NORD”), a nonprofit organization established in 1983 to provide services to and advocate on behalf of patients with rare diseases, remains a critical public voice for people with rare diseases;

Whereas 2016 marks the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act and the establishment of NORD;

Whereas NORD sponsors Rare Disease Day in the United States and partners with many other major rare disease organizations to increase public awareness of rare diseases;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event, first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009 and observed in more than 80 countries in 2015; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 29, 2016 as “Rare Disease Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of improving awareness and encouraging accurate and early diagnosis of rare diseases and disorders; and

(3) supports a national and global commitment to improving access to and developing new treatments, diagnostics, and cures for rare diseases and disorders.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3326. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3327. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3328. Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3329. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3330. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to

be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3331. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3332. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3333. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3334. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3335. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3336. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3337. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3338. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3339. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3340. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3341. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3342. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3343. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3344. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3345. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3346. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3347. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3348. Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3349. Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3350. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 524, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3326. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be