

foreign country or with external elements,” and “secession”;

Whereas reforms to Hong Kong’s legislative council ended any semblance of electoral democracy in Hong Kong by requiring the nomination of candidates by the Election Committee, which previously only elected the Chief Executive, reducing the number of directly elected seats from 35 to 20, and requires vetting by a screening committee of the “patriotism” of any candidate, defined as allegiance to the Government of Hong Kong and the Government of China and often interpreted as support for the Chinese Communist Party;

Whereas the political turmoil in Hong Kong is the result of actions of the Government of Hong Kong and the Government of China, including the arbitrary arrests and sentencing of peaceful protesters, including well-known democracy advocates such as Joshua Wong, Martin Lee, Jimmy Lai, Lee Cheuk Yan, Margaret Ng, Albert Ho, Leung Kwok-hung, Au Nok-hin, Figo Chan, and others;

Whereas, on May 6, 2021, four Hong Kong pro-democracy activists — Joshua Wong, Lester Shum, Tiffany Yuen, and Jannelle Leung — were sentenced to lengthy prison terms for participating in last year’s Tiananmen Square vigil;

Whereas the arbitrary arrests of Hong Kong residents for participating in peaceful rallies and vigils, which is a violation of the rights guaranteed to the residents of Hong Kong by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong, done at Beijing on December 19, 1984 (the “Sino-British Declaration”), should be considered by the international community to be the arbitrary detention of political prisoners for the purposes of applying sanctions under the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-76) and the Hong Kong Autonomy Act (Public Law 116-149);

Whereas China’s National People’s Congress has imposed national security legislation with respect to Hong Kong in contravention of the procedures outlined in the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (the “Basic Law”);

Whereas that legislation has nullified the independence of Hong Kong’s judiciary and its tradition of rule of law by suspending due process and trial by jury for cases deemed issues of national security;

Whereas the implementation of that legislation has effectively destroyed Hong Kong’s autonomy in direct violation of the Sino-British Declaration;

Whereas the National Security Law is in direct conflict with the rights guaranteed to the people of Hong Kong by virtue of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Hong Kong is made subject by way of the Basic Law;

Whereas the United States Department of State, pursuant to the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-383) and the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-76), determined that Hong Kong no longer manifests a “high degree of autonomy” distinct from mainland China;

Whereas vague national security laws are used widely in mainland China to imprison or arbitrarily detain dissidents, rights defenders, civil society advocates, religious leaders and adherents, former party members, and persons from ethnic groups whose religious freedom, linguistic rights, and political expression are heavily restricted by Chinese authorities;

Whereas human rights, democracy, and religious freedom advocates continue to be imprisoned, arbitrarily detained, disappeared and held incommunicado in undisclosed locations, and abducted across international borders under vague national security laws and other criminal charges in mainland China, including Gao Zhisheng, Gui Minhai, Xing Wangli, Jiang Tianyong, Wu Gan, Qin Yongmin, Zhou Shifeng, Yu Wensheng, Wang Yi, and Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo, who died in state custody nearly four years ago;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party and the Government of China used the tools of state power to silence whistleblowers at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, including doctors such as the late Li Wenliang, journalists, lawyers, scientists, and concerned citizens, and has subsequently imprisoned some of these individuals, including Zhang Zhan, who was sentenced to four years in prison on account of her whistleblowing activity, and Chen Zhaozhi, who has been detained for over a year on account of COVID-19 related social media posts;

Whereas the United States Congress, particularly in recent years, has passed numerous measures articulating the longstanding and bipartisan commitment to human rights in China, including—

(A) the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note);

(B) the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-198);

(C) the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-330);

(D) the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-76);

(E) the Hong Kong Autonomy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-149);

(F) the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act (Public Law 116-145); and

(G) the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-260);

Whereas, on this day, we stand in solidarity with Chinese human rights lawyers, labor and free speech advocates, Christians and other religious groups, and those distinct ethnic groups who face persecution, such as Tibetans, who continue to face severe restrictions and a concerted state effort to erase Tibetan Buddhism, the Tibetan language, and Tibetan traditional culture;

Whereas, on this day, we condemn the ongoing campaign of genocide and crimes against humanity committed by the Chinese Communist Party and the Government of China against Uyghurs as well as other Muslim ethnic groups who live in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, more than 1,000,000 of whom have been forced into mass internment camps, suffering a range of human rights abuses including being tortured, sexually assaulted, forced to renounce their religion and pledge allegiance to the Government of China, coerced into state-run programs of forced labor, separated from their families, and forced to undergo abortion and sterilization procedures; and

Whereas, on this day, we remember the words of the late Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo, who said there is “no force that can put an end to the human quest for freedom, and China will in the end become a nation ruled by law, where human rights reign supreme”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the Tiananmen protests and their violent suppression until such time as citizens of China are able to do so freely and publicly everywhere across their country;

(2) expresses sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, imprisoned, or exiled for their participation in the pro-democracy demonstrations during the spring of 1989;

(3) calls on the Government of China to allow those Tiananmen demonstration participants currently living in exile in the United States and other countries to return to China without risk of repercussions or retribution to themselves, their families, or their allies;

(4) condemns the use of violence, torture, harassment, and arbitrary detention as a means to repress the legitimate aspirations of the people of China to speak and associate freely, including to petition the government and challenge the policies and ideology of the Chinese Communist Party;

(5) calls on the Government of China to release all prisoners of conscience, including prisoners detained because of their participation in Tiananmen Square commemorations or actions calling for the type of political reforms and rights protections pursued by those who gathered in Tiananmen Square in 1989 and including over one million Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;

(6) condemns the forced imposition of national security legislation with respect to Hong Kong;

(7) calls upon the President to continue to use existing authorities to hold accountable Hong Kong officials, including Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, and Government of China officials for crushing Hong Kong’s autonomy and guaranteed rights; and

(8) calls upon the President to build an international coalition to demand that the Government of China adhere to its international agreements and human rights obligations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 261—RECOGNIZING JUNE 2021 AS “LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH”

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. OSOFF, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 261

Whereas individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as “LGBTQ”) include individuals from—

(1) all States, territories, and the District of Columbia; and

(2) all faiths, races, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, disability statuses, education levels, and political beliefs;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States have made, and continue to make, vital contributions to the United States and to the world in every aspect, including in the fields of education, law, health, business, science, research, economic development, architecture, fashion, sports, government, music, film, politics, technology, literature, and civil rights;

Whereas the coronavirus disease 2019 (referred to in this preamble as “COVID-19”) pandemic compounds the systemic inequality that LGBTQ individuals face in the healthcare, employment, and housing systems in the United States, leading to a disparate impact on LGBTQ individuals;

Whereas the persistent failure of Federal and State officials to collect full and accurate data on sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly in the current COVID-19 pandemic, causes tremendous harm to LGBTQ individuals in the United States, who remain largely invisible to the government entities entrusted with ensuring their health, safety, and well-being;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States serve on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic as doctors, nurses, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders in all States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States serve, and have served, the United States Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, and Marines honorably and with distinction and bravery;

Whereas a decades-long Federal policy, known as the “Lavender Scare”, threatened and intimidated Federal public servants from employment due to their sexual orientation, alleging LGBTQ individuals posed a threat to national security, preventing many more from entering the workforce;

Whereas an estimated number of more than 100,000 brave service members were discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States between the beginning of World War II and 2011 because of their sexual orientation, including the discharge of more than 13,000 service members under the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy in place between 1994 and 2011;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States serve, and have served, in positions in the Federal Government and State and local governments, including as members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries, Governors, mayors, and city council members;

Whereas the demonstrators who protested on June 28, 1969, following a law enforcement raid of the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQ club in New York City, are pioneers of the LGBTQ movement for equality;

Whereas, throughout much of the history of the United States, same-sex relationships were criminalized in many States, and many LGBTQ individuals in the United States were forced to hide their LGBTQ identities while living in secrecy and fear;

Whereas, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2584, that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to marry and acknowledged that “[n]o union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family”;

Whereas Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (referred to in this preamble as “AIDS”) has disproportionately impacted LGBTQ individuals in the United States, due in part to a lack of funding and research devoted to finding effective treatment for AIDS and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (referred to in this preamble as “HIV”) during the early stages of the HIV and AIDS epidemic;

Whereas gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color have a higher risk of contracting HIV;

Whereas the LGBTQ community has maintained its unwavering commitment to ending the HIV and AIDS epidemic;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States face disparities in employment, healthcare, education, housing, and many

other areas central to the pursuit of happiness in the United States;

Whereas 28 States have no explicit ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, housing, or public accommodations, and 34 States have no explicit ban on discrimination against LGBTQ individuals in education;

Whereas LGBTQ youth are at increased risk of—

- (1) suicide;
- (2) homelessness;
- (3) becoming victims of bullying, violence, or human trafficking; and
- (4) developing mental health illnesses, including anxiety and depression;

Whereas only 13 States and the District of Columbia have explicit policies in place to protect foster youth from discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas LGBTQ youth of color are overrepresented in child welfare and juvenile justice systems;

Whereas the LGBTQ community has faced discrimination, inequality, and violence throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas State legislatures across the country have introduced and passed harmful legislation directly targeting LGBTQ youth, particularly transgender youth, and their ability to participate in athletic activities and obtain access to healthcare;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States, in particular transgender individuals, face a disproportionately high risk of becoming victims of violent hate crimes;

Whereas members of the LGBTQ community have been targeted in acts of mass violence, including—

- (1) the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, where 49 people were killed; and
- (2) the arson attack at the UpStairs Lounge in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 24, 1973, where 32 people died;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States face persecution, violence, and death in many parts of the world, including State-sponsored violence;

Whereas in the several years preceding 2019, hundreds of LGBTQ individuals around the world were arrested and, in some cases, tortured or even executed because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity in countries and territories such as Chechnya, Egypt, Indonesia, and Tanzania;

Whereas, in May 2019, Taiwan became the first place in Asia to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples;

Whereas, since June 2019, Ecuador, Northern Ireland, and Costa Rica have extended marriage rights to same-sex couples, the most recent country-wide extensions of those rights in the world;

Whereas the LGBTQ community holds Pride festivals and marches in some of the most dangerous places in the world, despite threats of violence and arrest;

Whereas, in 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (division E of Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2835) into law to protect all individuals in the United States from crimes motivated by their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States have fought for equal treatment, dignity, and respect;

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States have achieved significant milestones, ensuring that future generations of LGBTQ individuals in the United States will enjoy a more equal and just society;

Whereas, despite being marginalized throughout the history of the United States,

LGBTQ individuals in the United States continue to celebrate their identities, love, and contributions to the United States in various expressions of Pride;

Whereas Pride is a celebration of visibility in spite of marginalization, and the LGBTQ community will continue to observe this significant cultural practice even though physical Pride celebrations may be compromised in June 2021 due to the health and safety needs of all individuals involved;

Whereas, in June 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that existing civil rights laws prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, a landmark victory for the LGBTQ community; and

Whereas LGBTQ individuals in the United States remain determined to pursue full equality, respect, and inclusion for all individuals regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the rights, freedoms, and equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this resolution as “LGBTQ”) individuals in the United States and around the world;

(2) acknowledges that LGBTQ rights are human rights that are to be protected by the laws of the United States and numerous international treaties and conventions;

(3) supports efforts to ensure the equal treatment of all individuals in the United States, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity;

(4) supports efforts to ensure that the United States remains a beacon of hope for the equal treatment of individuals around the world, including LGBTQ individuals; and

(5) encourages the celebration of June as “LGBTQ Pride Month” in order to provide a lasting opportunity for all individuals in the United States—

(A) to learn about the discrimination and inequality that the LGBTQ community endured, and continues to endure; and

(B) to celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ community throughout the history of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 262—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY, DOCUMENTS, AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. DODD

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 262

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Dodd*, Cr. No. 18–243, pending in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony, and, if necessary, documents from Laura Bowen, an employee of the Senate Post Office, a department of the Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony or documents relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and