

any disaster for which a Governor requested a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and was denied on or after January 1, 2012.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 303—SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF CUBA IN THEIR DEMANDS FOR FREEDOM AND THE FULFILLMENT OF BASIC NEEDS AND CONDEMNING THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN CUBA

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. INHOFE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 303

Whereas, on July 11, 2021, thousands of people in Cuba raised their voices against socialism, tyranny, and oppression;

Whereas the Cuban people, tired of living under a brutal dictatorship, peacefully protested against the Communist regime throughout Cuba, from major cities such as Havana, Santiago, and Santa Clara to small towns and villages;

Whereas protesters have assembled at the headquarters of the Communist Party of Cuba chanting, "Cuba isn't yours!", "We are not afraid!", "Freedom!", and "Homeland and Life!";

Whereas these protests are only the latest in the Cuban people's long struggle for freedom, which has included—

(1) the Christian Liberation Movement, which has advocated for political change in Cuba since 1987;

(2) the 1994 Maleconazo uprising in Havana, during which thousands of protesters rose up against the disastrous economic policies of the Communist regime in Cuba;

(3) the Varela Project, which, in 1998, proposed a law advocating for democratic political reforms within Cuba;

(4) the Ladies in White movement, founded in 2003 by the wives and relatives of those imprisoned by the regime; and

(5) the San Isidro Movement, which was formed by artists, journalists, and academics in 2018 to protest the restrictions imposed by the Communist regime in Cuba on the Cuban people's right to free expression;

Whereas, since 1959, the Communist regime in Cuba has repressed political and economic freedoms, including by—

(1) preventing Cubans from owning private property and using property stolen from Cuban-Americans, many of whom are now United States citizens;

(2) forcing Cubans employed at foreign firms to register with a state employment agency that confiscates the bulk of their earnings; and

(3) restricting the access of the Cuban people to the internet by using equipment and systems produced and installed by entities controlled by the Chinese Communist Party;

Whereas the Communist regime in Cuba has not acted to preserve the lives and well-being of the Cuban people during the COVID-

19 pandemic and left Cubans in dire need of food, medicine, and other basic necessities;

Whereas the Communist Party of Cuba has for years sought to silence those it considers its political opponents through the use of police harassment, forced detainment, and torture, including—

(1) dismissing and disparaging Oswaldo Paya, founder of the Christian Liberation Movement, and obstructing a credible investigation into the questionable circumstances of his death in a car crash in 2012;

(2) imprisoning 75 dissidents, journalists, and human rights advocates during the "Black Spring" in Cuba in 2003;

(3) imprisoning Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, founder of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU);

(4) arresting journalist Camila Acosta in March 2021 for sharing information on Facebook;

(5) detaining Ivan Hernandez Carrillo, an independent labor union leader, multiple times;

(6) imprisoning journalist Roberto Quinones Haces; and

(7) detaining the leaders of the San Isidro Movement, including Luis Manuel Otero Alcantara, Esteban Lazaro Rodriguez Lopez, Maykel Osorbo, and many others;

Whereas the Communist regime in Cuba has been responsible for numerous atrocities against those that stood up for the rights of the Cuban people, including the extrajudicial assassinations of innocent civilians and activists by firing squad and other brutal methods, such as during the Tugboat Massacre of 1994 and the shoot-down of the Brothers to the Rescue aircraft in 1996;

Whereas the Communist regime in Cuba is taking steps to silence protesters and their message by shutting down internet access throughout Cuba, including by seizing and assaulting photographer Ramon Espinosa;

Whereas the Communist regime in Cuba has already taken steps to violently suppress protests, including deploying heavily armed troops and tear gas to disperse protesters;

Whereas hundreds of Cubans have been wounded by that use of violence by the Communist regime in Cuba, and 67 individuals have been arrested by the regime;

Whereas Miguel Diaz-Canel has openly called for bloodshed to quell the protests by calling on "revolutionary" citizens to "battl[e] in the streets";

Whereas the Communist regime in Cuba has for years resisted the efforts of the United States and its allies to bring freedom to Cuba, including by—

(1) threatening the mass deportation of people in order to destabilize local government services in the United States;

(2) harboring terrorists and fugitives from the United States wanted for committing violent crimes in the United States; and

(3) jamming the radio broadcasts of Radio and TV Marti, which provide critical information on the outside world to the Cuban people; and

Whereas, since 1959, the United States has stood steadfastly in support of the freedom of the Cuban people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the people of Cuba on their courageous efforts to advance freedom and democracy in Cuba;

(2) calls on Cuban security forces to respect the fundamental rights of the Cuban people to peacefully protest while raising their voices and demanding "Libertad";

(3) calls on the Communist regime in Cuba to immediately release all political prisoners and calls for the end of acts of repression and arbitrary imprisonment of members of the opposition, artists, and journalists;

(4) calls on the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed

Forces to refrain from physical violence and any other acts of repression against the people of Cuba;

(5) urges the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean allies—

(A) to express their solidarity with all the Cuban people;

(B) to speak out against the repression of the freedom-loving people of Cuba;

(C) to condemn acts of violence against the Cuban people by the military and security forces of Cuba; and

(D) to cease cooperation with the murderous and corrupt Communist regime in Cuba;

(6) urges President Biden to coordinate an international effort through—

(A) calling a meeting of the United Nations Security Council;

(B) engaging the European Union and the Organization of American States (OAS) to condemn the oppression of the Cuban people by the Communist regime in Cuba; and

(C) leading the effort to impose multilateral sanctions on the regime and against those violating the human rights of the protesters; and

(7) encourages President Biden and the Secretary of State to publicly condemn the violence, arbitrary arrests, persecution, threats, and intimidation against the people of Cuba.

SENATE RESOLUTION 304—DESIGNATING JULY 2021 AS "PLASTIC POLLUTION ACTION MONTH"

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 304

Whereas plastic pollution represents a global threat that will require individual and collective action, both nationally and internationally, to address;

Whereas, since the 1950s, over 8,000,000,000 tons of plastic have been produced worldwide;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) just 9 percent of plastic waste is sorted for recycling; and

(2) less than 3 percent of plastic waste is recycled into a similar quality product;

Whereas a recent study found that, despite the United States only accounting for 4 percent of the global population in 2016, in that same year the United States—

(1) generated 17 percent of all plastic waste; and

(2) ranked third among all countries contributing to coastal plastic pollution;

Whereas single-use plastics account for at least 40 percent of the plastic produced every year;

Whereas over 12,000,000 tons of plastic waste enter the ocean every year from land-based sources alone;

Whereas, if no action is taken, the flow of plastics into the ocean is expected to triple by 2040;

Whereas studies estimate that there are between 15,000,000,000,000 and 51,000,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the oceans;

Whereas, globally, 100,000 marine mammals die every year as a result of plastic pollution;

Whereas plastics, and associated chemicals of plastics, directly impact human health;

Whereas studies suggest that, every week, humans swallow the amount of plastic that is in a credit card;

Whereas taking action to reduce plastic use, collect and clean up litter, and reuse and recycle more plastics will lead to less plastic pollution;

Whereas, every July, people challenge themselves to reduce their plastic footprint through “Plastics Free July”;

Whereas, during the International Coastal Cleanup in 2020, nearly 950,000 people across the globe cleaned up over 10,000 tons of plastic from beaches;

Whereas switching to reusable items instead of single-use items can prevent waste, save water, and reduce litter; and

Whereas July 2021 is an appropriate month to designate as Plastic Pollution Action Month to recommit to taking action, individually and as a country, to reduce plastic pollution; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2021 as “Plastic Pollution Action Month”;

(2) recognizes the dangers to human health and the environment posed by plastic pollution; and

(3) encourages all individuals in the United States to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild the environment by responsibly participating in activities to reduce plastic pollution in July 2021 and year-round.

SENATE RESOLUTION 305—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS TO THE MUSICAL HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEED FOR GREATER ACCESS TO MUSIC EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS AND DESIGNATING JUNE 2021 AS AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC APPRECIATION MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 305

Whereas spirituals, ragtime, blues, jazz, gospel, classical composition, and countless other categories of music have been created or enhanced by African Americans and are etched into the history and culture of the United States;

Whereas the first Africans transported to the United States came from a variety of ethnic groups with a long history of distinct and cultivated musical traditions, brought musical instruments with them, and built new musical instruments in the United States;

Whereas spirituals were a distinct response to the conditions of African slavery in the United States and expressed the longing of slaves for spiritual and bodily freedom, for safety from harm and evil, and for relief from the hardships of slavery;

Whereas jazz, arguably the most creative and complex music that the United States has produced, combines the musical traditions of African Americans in New Orleans with the creative flexibility of blues music;

Whereas masterful trumpeters Louis Armstrong and Miles Davis achieved national and international recognition with the success of “West End Blues” by Louis Armstrong in the 1920s and “So What” by Miles Davis in the late 1950s;

Whereas Thomas Dorsey, the father of gospel music, used his composing talents to merge sacred and secular styles that created a revolution in music;

Whereas talented jazz pianist and vocalist Nathaniel Adams Coles recorded more than 150 singles and sold more than 50,000,000 records;

Whereas the talent of Ella Fitzgerald, a winner of 13 Grammys, is epitomized by a

rendition of “Summertime”, a bluesy record accompanied by melodic vocals;

Whereas Natalie Cole, the daughter of Nathaniel Adams Coles, achieved musical success in the mid-1970s as a rhythm and blues artist with the hits “This Will Be” and “Unforgettable”;

Whereas, in the 1940s, bebop evolved through jam sessions, which included trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie and the alto saxophonist Charlie Parker, that were held at clubs in Harlem, New York, such as Minton’s Playhouse;

Whereas earlier classical singers such as Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield, one of the first widely known African-American vocalists, and other early African-American singing pioneers, including Nellie Mitchell Brown, Marie Selika Williams, Rachel Walker Turner, Marian Anderson, and Flora Batson Bergen, paved the way for the female African-American concert singers who have achieved great popularity during the last 50 years;

Whereas the term “rhythm and blues” originated in the late 1940s as a way to describe recordings marketed to African Americans and replaced the term “race music”;

Whereas lyrical themes in rhythm and blues often encapsulate the African-American experience of pain, the quest for freedom, joy, triumphs and failures, relationships, economics, and aspiration and were popularized by artists such as Ray Charles, Ruth Brown, Etta James, and Otis Redding;

Whereas soul music originated in the African-American community in the late 1950s and early 1960s, combines elements of African-American gospel music, rhythm and blues, and jazz, and was popularized by artists such as Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Bill Withers, and Jackie Wilson;

Whereas Motown, founded as a record label in 1959, evolved into a distinctive style known for the “Motown Sound”, a blend of pop and soul musical stylings made popular by prominent Black artists such as Marvin Gaye, James Mason, and Mary Wells;

Whereas, in the early 1970s, the musical style of disco emerged and was popularized by programs such as Soul Train and by artists such as Donna Summer;

Whereas reggae is a genre of music that originated in Jamaica in the late 1960s and incorporates some of the musical elements of rhythm and blues, jazz, mento, calypso, and African music, and was popularized by artists such as Bob Marley;

Whereas rock and roll was developed from African-American musical styles such as gospel and rhythm and blues and was popularized by artists such as Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Little Richard, and Jimi Hendrix;

Whereas rap, arguably the most complex and influential form of hip-hop culture, combines blues, jazz, and soul and elements of the African-American musical tradition with Caribbean calypso, dub, and dance hall reggae;

Whereas the development and popularity of old-style rap combined confident beats with wordplay and storytelling, highlighting the struggle of African-American youth growing up in underresourced neighborhoods;

Whereas contemporary rhythm and blues, which originated in the late 1970s and combines elements of pop, rhythm and blues, soul, funk, hip hop, gospel, and electronic dance music, was popularized by artists such as Whitney Houston and Aaliyah;

Whereas Prince Rogers Nelson, who was known for electric performances and a wide vocal range, pioneered music that integrated a wide variety of styles, including funk, rock, contemporary rhythm and blues, new wave, soul, psychedelia, and pop;

Whereas a recent study by the Department of Education found that only 28 percent of

African-American students receive any kind of arts education;

Whereas African-American students scored the lowest of all ethnicities in the most recent National Assessment for Educational Progress arts assessment;

Whereas students who are eligible for the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) have significantly lower scores on the music portion of the National Assessment for Educational Progress arts assessment than students who are ineligible for that program, which suggests that students in low-income families are disadvantaged in the subject of music;

Whereas a recent study found that—

(1) nearly ¾ of music ensemble students were White and middle class, and only 15 percent of those students were African-American; and

(2) only 7 percent of music teacher licensure candidates were African American; and

Whereas students of color face many barriers to accessing music education and training, especially students in large urban public schools; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the contributions of African Americans to the musical heritage of the United States;

(B) the wide array of talented and popular African-American musical artists, composers, songwriters, and musicians who are underrecognized for contributions to music;

(C) the achievements, talent, and hard work of African-American pioneer artists and the obstacles that those artists overcame to gain recognition;

(D) the need for African-American students to have greater access to, and participation in, music education in schools across the United States; and

(E) Black History Month and African-American Music Appreciation Month as an important time—

(i) to celebrate the impact of the African-American musical heritage on the musical heritage of the United States; and

(ii) to encourage greater access to music education so that the next generation may continue to greatly contribute to the musical heritage of the United States; and

(2) designates June 2021 as “African-American Music Appreciation Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 306—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION BY THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL IN THE CASE OF JENNIFER GRAPPELL V. ALBERTO M. CARVALHO, ET AL

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

S. RES. 306

Whereas, Senator Marco Rubio has been named as a defendant in the case of *Jennifer Grappell v. Alberto M. Carvalho, et al.*, Case No. 21-cv-22016, currently pending in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend Members of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities; Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Rubio in the case of *Jennifer Grappell v. Alberto M. Carvalho, et al.*