

America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525(e)); and

(ii) all agreements with respect to the military or intelligence sector of Nicaragua entered into, on or after January 1, 2011, by the Government of Nicaragua with an entity described in clause (i); and

(B) a description of and date for each purchase and agreement described in subparagraph (A).

(2) **CONSIDERATION.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be prepared after consideration of the content of the report of the Defense Intelligence Agency entitled, "Russia: Defense Cooperation with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela" and dated February 4, 2019.

(3) **FORM OF REPORT.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(b) **REVIEW REQUIRED.**—Not later than 30 days after submitting the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, shall—

(1) review whether any of the purchases or agreements included in the list required by subsection (a)(1)(A) that occurred after August 2, 2017, qualify as significant transactions described in section 231(a) of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525(a)); and

(2) submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the review conducted under paragraph (1).

(c) **IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**—Pursuant to the review conducted under subsection (b) and section 231 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525), the President shall impose 5 or more of the sanctions described in section 235 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 9529) with respect to each significant transaction identified pursuant to the review.

SEC. 11. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN NICARAGUA.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that, since the June 2018 initiation of "Operation Clean-up", an effort of the government of Daniel Ortega to dismantle barricades constructed throughout Nicaragua during social demonstrations in April 2018, the Ortega government has increased its abuse of campesinos and members of indigenous communities, including arbitrary detentions, torture, and sexual violence as a form of intimidation.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that documents the perpetration of gross human rights violations by the Ortega government against the citizens of Nicaragua, including campesinos and indigenous communities in the interior of Nicaragua.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (b) shall—

(1) include a compilation of human rights violations committed by the Ortega government against the citizens of Nicaragua, with a focus on such violations committed since April 2018, including human rights abuses and extrajudicial killings in—

(A) the cities of Managua, Carazo, and Masaya between April and June of 2018; and

(B) the municipalities of Wivilí, El Cuá, San Jose de Bocay, and Santa Maria de Pantasma in the Department of Jinotega, Esquipulas in the Department of Rivas, and Bilwi in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region between 2018 and 2021;

(2) outline efforts by the Ortega government to intimidate and disrupt the activities of civil society organizations attempting to hold the government accountable for infringing on the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people of Nicaragua; and

(3) provide recommendations on how the United States, in collaboration with international partners and Nicaraguan civil society, should leverage bilateral and regional relationships to curtail the gross human rights violations perpetrated by the Ortega government and better support the victims of human rights violations in Nicaragua.

(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 12. SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT NEWS MEDIA AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN NICARAGUA.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development, and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media, shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the governmental, political, and technological obstacles faced by the people of Nicaragua in their efforts to obtain accurate, objective, and comprehensive news and information about domestic and international affairs; and

(2) a list of all TV channels, radio stations, online news sites, and other media platforms operating in Nicaragua that are directly or indirectly owned or controlled by President Daniel Ortega, members of the Ortega family, or known allies of the Ortega government.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the extent to which the current level and type of news and related programming and content provided by the Voice of America and other sources is addressing the informational needs of the people of Nicaragua;

(2) a description of existing United States efforts to strengthen freedom of the press and freedom of expression in Nicaragua, including recommendations to expand upon those efforts; and

(3) a strategy for strengthening independent broadcasting, information distribution, and media platforms in Nicaragua.

SEC. 13. AMENDMENT TO SHORT TITLE OF PUBLIC LAW 115-335.

Section 1(a) of the Nicaragua Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-335; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the 'Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act of 2018' or the 'NICA Act'."

SEC. 14. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act of 2018" means the Public Law 115-335 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended by section 13.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHATZ. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having

been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1041), as amended, was passed.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO REGAIN OBSERVER STATUS FOR TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 110, S. 812.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 812) to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 812) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 812

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged with coordinating health efforts within the United Nations system. The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO, which convenes annually in May to set the policies and priorities of the organization. Statehood is not a requirement for attendance at the WHA, and numerous observers, including non-members and non-governmental organizations, attended the most recent virtual WHA in May 2020.

(2) Taiwan began seeking to participate in the WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong support from successive United States Administrations, Congress, and like-minded WHO Member States, and during a period of improved Cross-Strait relations, Taiwan received an invitation to attend the WHA as an observer under the name "Chinese Taipei". Taiwan received the same invitation each year until 2016, when following the election of President Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan's engagement in the international community began facing increased resistance from the People's Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan's invitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and included new language conditioning Taiwan's participation on the PRC's "one China principle". The WHO did not invite Taiwan to attend the WHA as an observer in 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020.

(3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to world health, having provided financial and technical assistance to respond to numerous global health challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6,000,000,000 in international medical and humanitarian aid efforts impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In 2014, Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1,000,000 and providing 100,000 sets of personal protective equipment. Through the Global Cooperation and Training Framework, the United States and Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for experts to combat MERS, Dengue Fever, and Zika. In 2020, after successfully containing the spread of the novel coronavirus within its borders while upholding democratic principles, Taiwan generously donated millions of pieces of personal protective equipment and COVID-19 tests to countries in need. These diseases know no borders, and Taiwan's needless exclusion from global health cooperation increases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

(4) Taiwan's international engagement has faced increased resistance from the PRC. Taiwan was not invited to the 2016 Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), despite participating as a guest at the organization's prior summit in 2013. Taiwan's requests to participate in the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) have also been rejected. In May 2017, PRC delegates disrupted a meeting of the Kimberley Process on conflict diamonds held in Perth, Australia, until delegates from Taiwan were asked to leave. Since 2016, the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, the Republic of Panama, the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, the Republic of El Salvador, the Solomon Islands, and the Republic of Kiribati have terminated longstanding diplomatic relationships with Taiwan and granted diplomatic recognition to the PRC.

(5) Congress has established a policy of support for Taiwan's participation in international bodies that address shared transnational challenges, particularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R. 1794 in the 106th Congress, H.R. 428 in the 107th Congress, and S. 2092 in the 108th Congress to direct the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for, and to report annually to Congress on, efforts to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the WHA. Congress also passed H.R. 1151 in the 113th Congress, directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain observer status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assembly, and H.R. 1853 in the 114th Congress, directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain observer status for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assembly. However, since 2016, Taiwan has not received an invitation to attend any of these events as an observer.

(b) **AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subsection (c) of section 1 of the Act entitled, "To address the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization" (Public Law 108-235; 22 U.S.C. 290 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) An account of the changes and improvements the Secretary of State has made to the United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly, following any annual meetings of the World Health Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer status."

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply beginning with the first report required under subsection (c) of section 1 of the Act entitled, "To address the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization"

(Public Law 108-235; 22 U.S.C. 290 note) that is submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

REQUIRING THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RACE AND ETHNICITY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1031 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1031) to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1031) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1031

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY ON DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RACE AND ETHNICITY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study—

(1) to assess whether there are disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to—

(A) compensation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(B) disability ratings determined by the Secretary, with specific consideration of disability evaluations based on pain; and

(C) the rejection of fully developed claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary; and

(2) to develop recommendations to facilitate better data collection on the disparities described in paragraph (1).

(b) **INITIAL BRIEFING.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall brief Congress on the initial results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 240 days after the date on which the briefing required by subsection (b) is conducted, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a final report setting forth the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including the recommendations developed under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

PUPPIES ASSISTING WOUNDED SERVICEMEMBERS FOR VETERANS THERAPY ACT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1448 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1448) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy, and to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHATZ. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1448) was passed.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2670 and S. 2671

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2670) to provide for redistricting reform, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2671) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHATZ. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments be at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, August 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.