

TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2848, a bill to exempt individuals with a personal health concern from complying with a Federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate, and for other purposes.

S. 2849

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2849, a bill to stipulate that nothing in Federal law provides a Federal agency with the authority to mandate that an individual be inoculated by a COVID-19 vaccine.

S. 2850

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2850, a bill to exempt individuals from complying with a Federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate on the basis of a personal belief, and for other purposes.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2851, a bill to require an audit of COVID-19 relief funding.

S. 2854

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2854, a bill to allow for the transfer and redemption of abandoned savings bonds.

S. 2862

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2862, a bill to prohibit the National Archives and Records Administration from including content warnings alongside founding documents of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2863

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2863, a bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Taliban in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 2865

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2865, a bill to improve the unemployment insurance program.

S. RES. 321

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a

cosponsor of S. Res. 321, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2050.

### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2868. A bill to temporarily extend the public debt limit until December 16, 2022; read the first time.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

S. 2868

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

#### SECTION 1. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 16, 2022.

(b) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—Effective on December 17, 2022, the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased to the extent that—

(1) the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on December 17, 2022, exceeds

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) EXTENSION LIMITED TO NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS.—An obligation shall not be taken into account under subsection (b)(1) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred pursuant to law by the Federal Government that required payment before December 17, 2022.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 388—COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1996 SUMMER OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES HELD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 388

Whereas the city of Atlanta hosted the world during—

(1) the 1996 Olympic Summer Games (referred to in this preamble as the “Summer Games”) from July 19, 1996, to August 4, 1996; and

(2) the 1996 Paralympic Games (referred to in this preamble as the “Paralympic Games”) from August 16, 1996, to August 25, 1996;

Whereas the Summer Games and Paralympic Games honored the centennial anniversary of the founding of the modern Olympic Movement while creating a legacy of their own;

Whereas Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic Cauldron at the Summer Games Opening

Ceremony, recognizing his Olympic success and lifelong fight for racial justice;

Whereas 10,320 athletes from 197 countries came together in 271 Summer Games events across 37 disciplines and 26 sports;

Whereas the 1996 United States Olympic Team’s largest roster ever of 646 athletes finished first in the medal tally for the first time since 1984 with 44 gold medals and 32 silver medals;

Whereas over 2,000,000 people visited Atlanta during the Summer Games, and nearly 3,500,000,000 people watched the Summer Games from afar;

Whereas over 3,500 athletes from 104 countries competed in the Paralympic Games, and reminded the world that every individual can compete regardless of their disposition;

Whereas the Paralympic Games were the first Paralympic Games—

(1) to attract worldwide corporate sponsorships; and

(2) be televised in the United States;

Whereas over 380,000 individuals attended the Paralympic Games, which were opened by Vice President Al Gore;

Whereas 3,808 athletes from 104 countries came together in 508 Paralympic Games events across 20 sports;

Whereas the 1996 United States Paralympic Team won the most gold and overall medals;

Whereas the Summer Games relied on the partnership of local Atlanta-based businesses, leading to international recognition and growth for those businesses;

Whereas, on July 27, 1996, the people of Atlanta and other United States citizens persevered in the face of a tragic bombing at the Summer Games;

Whereas the Summer Games and Paralympic Games created an estimated 84,000 jobs in Atlanta during the Games and an additional 293,000 jobs afterward;

Whereas Centennial Olympic Park led a revitalization of Downtown Atlanta, and is still a central gathering spot to this day; and

Whereas the success of the Summer Games and Paralympic Games helped turn Atlanta into one of the world’s leading hosts for large-scale sporting events: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions that were made by—

(A) the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games;

(B) the hundreds of Team USA athletes and the thousands of international athletes who competed in the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games; and

(C) the people, companies, and communities that made the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games possible;

(2) recognizes that the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games left a lasting legacy in Atlanta, with many of the venues from those Games still serving the community; and

(3) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the 1996 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 389—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2021 AS “NATIONAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH”

Mr. KING (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

## S. RES. 389

Whereas the theme for National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in 2021 is “Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family, Every Community”;

Whereas more than 92,000 individuals in the United States suffered a fatal alcohol or drug overdose during 2020, an increase of approximately 30 percent as compared to 2019;

Whereas during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, increased isolation and reduced or disrupted access to treatment programs have contributed to an increase in individuals reporting anxiety and depressive disorders when compared to the previous year, and 13 percent of Americans reported starting or increasing substance use;

Whereas, in 2019, there were approximately 21,000,000 individuals in the United States aged 18 or older in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction;

Whereas the estimated total cost to the economy of prescription opioid misuse is \$78,500,000,000 annually, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, and involvement of the criminal justice system;

Whereas individuals with substance use disorder may face stigma from health professionals, as well as friends and family;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that stigma can be a barrier for individuals with substance use disorder to accessing treatment and engaging in recovery; and

Whereas peer-supported communities offer individuals with substance use disorder better success in recovery by addressing the personal and emotional effects of addiction and easing reintegration: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of education for the prevention of substance use disorder;

(2) supports efforts to explore the means by which integrated care, community, and sense of purpose can lead to effective and sustainable treatment of substance use disorder; and

(3) shows appreciation and gratitude for family members, friends, and other individuals who support individuals in recovery from substance use disorder.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 390—EX-PRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE STATE OF QATAR'S EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE UNITED STATES DURING OPERATION ALLIES REFUGE

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

## S. RES. 390

Whereas thousands of United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, vulnerable Afghans, and their families sought refuge following the Afghan Taliban's takeover of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan;

Whereas the State of Qatar played a critical role in assisting the United States in evacuating thousands of people from the rule of the Afghan Taliban regime;

Whereas Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar served as a central transportation hub for many evacuees desperately seeking to exit Afghanistan; and

Whereas Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin stated, “Qatar's support for Operation Allies Refuge was indispensable to the safe transit of Americans and U.S. personnel, allies, partners and Afghans at special risk.”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) thanks the State of Qatar for their pivotal role and support of Operation Allies Refuge; and

(2) appreciates the State of Qatar's support to temporarily house thousands of evacuees until they are cleared for follow-on movement.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 391—EX-PRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE RISE IN ILLICIT MINING AND TRAFFICKING OF GOLD IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE PERVERSIVE PROBLEM THAT SUCH MINING POSES FOR THE SECURITY, STABILITY, AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE REGION

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

## S. RES 391

Whereas during the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of enactment of this Resolution, Latin America has witnessed an alarming increase in the illicit mining and trafficking of gold and other valuable minerals;

Whereas illicit gold mining is a significant challenge across Latin America, specifically in the Andean and Amazonian regions, where, according to the internationally recognized nongovernmental organization Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime—

(1) Venezuela leads the region with approximately 90 percent of the gold extracted in that country being mined illicitly;

(2) Colombia and Ecuador closely follow with approximately 80 percent of the gold extracted in those countries being mined illicitly; and

(3) nearly 30 percent of the gold extracted in Bolivia and Peru is mined illicitly;

Whereas illicit gold mining involves the extraction of gold in violation of the laws of the country in which the activity occurs and mostly takes place in remote geographic areas with limited government presence, leaving opportunities for transnational criminal organizations to exploit this practice to generate billions of dollars in illicit profits to bolster their strength and long-term viability;

Whereas the profits derived from illicit gold mining have become a leading source of the illicit financial activities in the region, surpassing the profits generated by coca and cocaine production in recent years;

Whereas transnational criminal organizations use illicit gold trafficking as a mechanism to launder profits from other illicit activities, which frequently threatens the national security of the United States and undermines legal international trade by compromising the lawful gold supply chain and exploiting the United States financial system for illegal gain;

Whereas the presence of transnational criminal organizations in mining and trading chains of gold and other valuable minerals profoundly threatens the safety, security, and cultural integrity of indigenous communities across Latin America;

Whereas illicit gold mining often devastates the environment and is destructive to rural and indigenous communities since it violates legal standards and safety requirements and often involves the illegal use of mercury, a potent toxin that, when used improperly, contaminates water supplies in the areas surrounding illicit mining sites, and can result in acute and long-term poisoning in people;

Whereas the recent activities associated with illicit gold mining include cutting down rainforests and creating pools of stagnant water, which contribute to the spread of mosquitoes and insect-borne disease, inciting an epidemic of malaria in Venezuela at levels not seen in the past 75 years;

Whereas in May 2016, former President of Peru, Ollanta Humala, declared a 60-day emergency in the Madre de Dios region near Peru's southeastern border with Brazil in an attempt to curb high levels of mercury poisoning of residents due to the impacts of illicit gold mining;

Whereas, on February 24, 2016, the authoritarian government of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela enacted a decree that announced a new legal framework for open mining under the name of “Orinoco Mining Arc” as a means to diversify the regime's cash flow, an action done without the approval of the democratically elected National Assembly, as required by Venezuela's Constitution;

Whereas the Orinoco Mining Arc decree can impact the mercury content in waters in southern Venezuela and devastate the unique ecosystems of the Amazon, including World Heritage Site Canaima National Park, which is the ancestral land of the Pemón indigenous people and where at least 59 mining sites have been detected;

Whereas corruption and the weak rule of law in Venezuela has allowed transnational criminal organizations, drug trafficking organizations, insurgent groups, and other armed groups to control and financially benefit from illicit mining operations, many of which have exerted control over different parts of the Orinoco Mining Arc region and beyond, such as Yapacana National Park and the Alto Orinoco-Casiquiare Biosphere Reserve, home to indigenous communities of 17 ethnic groups, including the Yanomami and Ye'kuana tribes;

Whereas, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, more than 500,000 workers are involved in mining operations in Venezuela, of whom—

(1) approximately 45 percent are underage; and

(2) the majority are from indigenous communities who were coerced into working through threats of violence;

Whereas the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, in a September 2021 report, expressed concern that the flow of all the gold produced within Venezuela, which is estimated to total as much as 75 tons per year, with a market value of more than \$4,400,000,000, has a high risk of contributing to serious human rights abuses, direct or indirect support for non-state armed groups, corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion;

Whereas Executive Order 13850, which was issued on November 1, 2018, sanctioned individuals involved in illicit gold operations that propped up the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro;

Whereas the United States signed Memorandums of Understanding with the governments of Peru and Colombia in 2017 and 2018, respectively, in an effort to combat illicit mining and minimize its negative impacts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses deep concern about the threat that illicit gold mining in Latin America poses for the security, stability, and environment of the region;

(2) recognizes the threat that illicit gold mining in Latin America poses for the national security of the United States;

(3) supports the rights of the rural and indigenous populations that have been deeply affected by illicit gold mining practices in the region;