

and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day.

AMENDMENT NO. 4860

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4860 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 465—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PRIORITIZE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND EMPHASIZE WITH ALLIES THE NEED TO PROVIDE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO, AND MAINTAIN LEGAL PATHWAYS FOR THE EMIGRATION OUT OF AFGHANISTAN OF, INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT WISH TO BE GOVERNED BY THE TALIBAN

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

S. RES. 465

Whereas, on August 15, 2021, the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan collapsed, with President Ashraf Ghani fleeing to the United Arab Emirates;

Whereas, on the same day, the Taliban seized Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan;

Whereas the United States immediately began an emergency evacuation of Afghanistan, focusing on United States citizens, individuals with special immigrant visas, and refugees with Priority 1 and Priority 2 designations;

Whereas, on August 31, 2021, the United States ended its evacuation efforts in Afghanistan, leaving United States citizens and an unknown—but notably high—number of visa-eligible Afghans and other allies at risk of harm from the Taliban;

Whereas Afghan citizens in Afghanistan are increasingly at risk of food insecurity and poverty;

Whereas the increase of poverty in Afghanistan creates conditions that could lead to a dramatic increase in human trafficking and child, early, or force marriage, which disproportionately impact women and girls;

Whereas the United States has a legal duty to protect United States citizens and lawful permanent residents from harm;

Whereas the United States has a moral duty and security interest in protecting the Afghan citizens who worked to build a democracy for themselves based on assurances from the United States Government that such efforts would be defended by the United States and its allies;

Whereas the United States has a humanitarian responsibility to protect individuals who—

(1) are at risk of retribution based on their—

(A) religious beliefs;

(B) activities supporting democracy in Afghanistan; or

(C) defense of human rights, especially women's rights and empowerment;

(2) are in imminent danger due to the absence of the United States-led coalition in Afghanistan, which spanned two decades; or

(3) are at risk of hunger or starvation;

Whereas the United States has ended its military presence in Afghanistan and will conduct any remaining operations in Afghanistan from Doha, Qatar; and

Whereas the United States should not accept the loss of two decades of nation-building, civil society strengthening, elections monitoring, advances in rights for girls and women, cultural exchange programs, and many other initiatives in collaboration with the people of Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the Secretary of State, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, should lead a coordinated effort—

(i) to extract United States citizens and lawful permanent residents from Afghanistan;

(ii) to support Afghan citizens in their efforts to safely leave Afghanistan; and

(iii) to maintain open lines of contact and help with individuals remaining in Afghanistan under the Taliban;

(B) to carry out the coordinated effort described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State should—

(i) advise and consult with appropriate parties to advocate for the rights and freedoms of the people of Afghanistan at all international venues and with the governments of partner countries; and

(ii) oversee support such as—

(I) assistance mechanisms for Afghan citizens who are in need of humanitarian assistance or who are defending the human rights and freedoms of Afghan citizens; and

(II) other mechanisms sufficient to continue to advocate for United States interests with United States allies and among the international community;

(iii) continue the coordinated effort described in subparagraph (A) until the later of—

(I) the date on which the Secretary of State has assisted in physically relocating, from Afghanistan to locations outside of the internationally recognized border of Afghanistan, any—

(aa) citizen of the United States; and

(bb) lawful permanent resident of the United States;

(II) the date on which an independent human rights monitor has been established and is functioning in Afghanistan; and

(III) the date on which the Secretary of State identifies a neutral international organization or entity that is able to vie for United States interests in Afghanistan till such a time as Afghanistan is returned to legitimate government;

(C) the United States should—

(i) work with the United Nations to establish humanitarian corridors from and to countries bordering Afghanistan, including Tajikistan, which has indicated willingness to receive Afghan refugees; and

(ii) work with such countries to ensure the efficient and safe reception and processing of Afghan refugees, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to be registered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and processed swiftly and equitably for travel to recipient countries, including the United States;

(D) such humanitarian corridors should be free from obstruction by the Taliban, and safe passage should be provided by the United Nations or any other organization;

(E) humanitarian assistance should continue to be provided to Afghanistan through

the United Nations and international nongovernmental organizations, with special focus on the most vulnerable individuals, including women, girls, and individuals from ethnic minority groups, while also ensuring that the assistance does not benefit the Taliban politically or otherwise;

(F) the United Nations should appoint an independent, nongovernmental human rights monitor, who—

(i) should have continued free access throughout Afghanistan to ensure the Taliban is not brutalizing individuals and families living in Afghanistan; and

(ii) should report to the United Nations Security Council in an ongoing fashion on the human rights and humanitarian situation on the ground in Afghanistan;

(G) the United States should convene a high-level summit to identify and consult with countries willing and able to receive Afghan refugees; and

(H) the Secretary of State should ensure robust interagency coordination and improve collaboration and transparency with Congress, United States civil society, and resettlement agencies so as to improve processing, service provision, and United States capacity to welcome; and

(2) the Senate discourages the United States Government from engaging with the Taliban in any way that would grant the Taliban benefits typically afforded to legitimate governments or would otherwise legitimize the Taliban, including by—

(A) making deposits through the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, or the Department of the Treasury or facilitating any other transactions that would provide economic support to the Taliban;

(B) providing any foreign assistance for a nonhumanitarian purpose that might benefit or accrue to the Taliban;

(C) facilitating any exchange of Ambassadors or fielding any diplomatic mission that goes beyond an “interest section” necessary for diplomatic conversations without recognition; or

(D) allowing the Taliban to occupy Afghanistan's seat in the United Nations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 466—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S (IAEA) NUCLEAR SECURITY ROLE

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 466

Whereas the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), created in 1957 for the purpose of assisting states in the development and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, plays a critical role in the global nuclear security regime;

Whereas the agency's activities in nuclear security date back to the 1970s, when the agency began providing ad hoc training courses in physical protection;

Whereas these responsibilities expanded following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, reports of nuclear smuggling in the late 1990s, and again after the devastating terror attacks on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the agency established the Nuclear Security Fund to assist countries in protecting their nuclear and radiological materials and facilities;

Whereas the agency's nuclear security efforts are sustained by its technical expertise,

experience, transparency, and confidentiality;

Whereas rogue regimes and clandestine organizations continue to exhibit the ambition to acquire nuclear materials that can be used to build crude radiological and nuclear weapons;

Whereas the IAEA Office of Nuclear Security relies almost exclusively on voluntary funding, which is inherently unpredictable and inconsistent; and

Whereas the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., issued an Action Plan on April 1, 2016, citing the agency's need for "reliable and sufficient resources": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) maintains that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays an indispensable role in strengthening nuclear security and safety around the globe;

(2) reaffirms that the United States has a vital interest in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials; and

(3) encourages the United States and other member states of the IAEA to take steps to ensure that the IAEA has the resources needed to successfully carry out its duties, including—

(A) supporting the IAEA to continue convening ministerial meetings on nuclear security to promote political commitment;

(B) contributing to the implementation of the IAEA's Nuclear Security Plan through reliable and sufficient resources;

(C) providing appropriate political, technical, and financial support to the Nuclear Security Fund; and

(D) developing a comprehensive strategy to encourage non-state, private sector contributions to the Nuclear Security Fund.

SENATE RESOLUTION 467—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY THE 305-METER RADIO TELESCOPE AT THE ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 467

Whereas the Department of Defense began developing the Arecibo Observatory located in Barrio Esperanza, Arecibo, Puerto Rico, during the 1950s, and its characteristic instrument, a large radio telescope of 305 meters in diameter was completed in 1963;

Whereas the facility was later owned by the National Science Foundation, and supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and various university partners;

Whereas the Arecibo Observatory's 305-meter fixed spherical radio telescope, was the world's largest single-dish radio telescope until the Five-Hundred-Meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope located in Gzhzhou, China, began observing in 2016;

Whereas the 305-meter radio telescope made unparalleled contributions to the fields of radio astronomy, planetary, and atmospheric sciences, and played a role in inspiring thousands of students in Puerto Rico, the Nation, and the world to pursue careers in STEM fields through the Arecibo Observatory Education and Public Outreach Programs;

Whereas the radio telescope significantly advanced the field of radio astronomy, including the first indirect detection of gravitational waves, the first detection of extrasolar planets, innumerable contribu-

tions to the field of time domain astronomy and the study of the interstellar medium, and played a key role in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence;

Whereas the Arecibo Observatory had the best planetary radar system in the world, used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for near-Earth object detection and was an essential part of the agency's planetary defense program;

Whereas the planetary radar at the Arecibo Observatory has contributed fundamentally and significantly to the knowledge of the solar system;

Whereas the Arecibo Observatory's Incoherent Scatter Radar and supporting facilities have provided fundamental understanding of the ionosphere and upper atmosphere, and the interface between the atmosphere and space that protects the planet from solar wind, meteors, and other potential threats; and

Whereas, December 1, 2021, marks the 1-year anniversary of the uncontrolled collapse sustained by the radio telescope after a series of cable failures in tower 4: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the loss of the Arecibo Observatory's radio telescope due to its collapse and its implications for the loss of a unique world-class multidisciplinary science facility which conducted research in the areas of space and atmospheric sciences, radar astronomy and planetary sciences, astronomy, and astrophysics;

(2) acknowledges that the uncontrolled collapse of the 305-meter radio telescope represents a remarkable loss of astronomical observation capabilities, scientific research and development, planetary defense capabilities, and applied science advantage for the United States;

(3) recognizes the rich scientific, educational, and economic benefits that the Arecibo Telescope has made to the people of Puerto Rico, the Nation, and the world;

(4) recognizes the work and contributions made by the thousands of dedicated staff who have supported the Arecibo Observatory for close to 6 decades;

(5) commends the National Science Foundation for convening a virtual workshop in June 2021, to explore ideas for future scientific and educational activities at the Arecibo Observatory; and

(6) encourages the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other agencies to study means of replacing the scientific capabilities that were lost at the Arecibo Observatory, utilizing new state-of-the-art technologies at the site.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4866. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4867. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4868. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

SA 4869. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4870. Mr. HAGERTY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6119, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4866. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 318. DESIGNATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR PERMANENT DEPLOYMENT OF LIMITED NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT WITH STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall designate as an action categorically excluded from the requirements relating to environmental assessments or environmental impact statements for purposes of appendix B of part 989 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), and part 1501 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), any project—

(1) that is critical to national security, maximizes aircraft for contingencies, and enhances operational flexibility; and

(2) that consists of beddown or plus-up of a small number of aircraft to an installation with similar aircraft that does not result in an increase of more than 300 permanent personnel or logistics support requirements at the receiving installation.

(b) APPLICATION OF EXCLUSION.—Subsection (a) shall apply to any aircraft and infrastructure directly supporting a beddown or plus-up described in such subsection, including operational facilities, operational support facilities, and on-base housing.

(c) REPROGRAMMING.—The Secretary of the Air Force may reprogram such funds allocated to the Department of the Air Force as the Secretary considers necessary to expedite a beddown or plus-up described in subsection (a), including for infrastructure supporting such beddown or plus-up pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall prescribe such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.

SA 4867. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: