

Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall establish within the Department of Labor, a Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group to recommend the update and modernization of certain requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, as described in subsection (c).

(2) **DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be considered established on the date on which a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Working Group have been appointed, consistent with subsection (d).

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall—

(1) recommend whether, and if so by how much, the residential classification can be applied to affordable housing units with 5 stories or more for purposes of prevailing wage determinations under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code;

(2) develop administrative and legislative recommendations of ways, and for what specific circumstances in which, the prevailing wage rate requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, could be waived or streamlined for certain affordable rental Federal Housing Administration new construction projects; and

(3) review the potential positive and negative outcomes of directing the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine prevailing wages (rather than the Secretary of Labor under section 3142(b) of title 40, United States Code), in a way that would not rely on the collection of voluntary surveys from businesses but rather on data that is already collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(d) **MEMBERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be composed of the following representatives of Federal agencies and relevant non-Federal industry stakeholder organizations:

(A) A representative from the Department of Labor, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

(B) A representative from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, appointed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(C) A representative of a housing construction industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) A representative of a financial services industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(E) A representative of an affordable housing industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(F) A representative of a State public housing agency, as defined in section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(G) A representative of a tribally designated housing entity, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(H) A representative of a labor organization representing the housing construction workforce, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) **CHAIR.**—The representative from the Department of Labor appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall serve as the chair of the

Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, and that representative shall be responsible for organizing the business of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(e) **OTHER MATTERS.**—

(1) **NO COMPENSATION.**—A member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall serve without compensation.

(2) **SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Labor may detail an employee of the Department of Labor to assist and support the work of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, though such a detailee shall not be considered to be a member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(f) **REPORT.**—

(1) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group is established, the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations under subsection (c), including recommendations resulting from the review under subsection (c)(3), to the Secretary of Labor, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

(2) **MAJORITY SUPPORT.**—Each recommendation made under paragraph (1) shall be agreed to by a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(g) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACAA.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(h) **SUNSET.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall terminate on the date the report is completed under subsection (f)(1).

SEC. 5. NATIONAL HOUSING ACT.

Section 212(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715c(a)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276a–276a–5)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 6. HOUSING ACT OF 1959.

Section 202(j)(5)(A) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 7. NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996.

Section 104(b)(1) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act; chapter 411; 46 Stat. 1494; 40 U.S.C. 276a et seq.),” and inserting “for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 8. CRANSTON-GONZALEZ NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT.

Section 811(j)(5)(A) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking

“similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 9. UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.

Section 12(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(a)) is amended by striking “, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act (49 Stat. 1011)” and inserting “for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 558—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON WHEN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO RETURN TO THE LEVEL OF THAT RELATIONSHIP BEFORE THE INVASION OF UKRAINE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION THAT BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022, AND ON THE ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THAT TIME

Mr. CASSIDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 558

Whereas the United States has a responsibility to uphold the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights across the globe;

Whereas there are several universal declarations promoting human rights, laws of war, and upholding the dignity of individuals;

Whereas the preamble to the United Nations Charter states that member countries “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights [and] in the dignity and worth of the human person”;

Whereas the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms”;

Whereas the Russian Federation, as the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, joined as an original member of the United Nations on October 24, 1945, and as such has a duty to abide by the conditions of the United Nations Charter;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin, members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, and President Putin’s military commanders have severely undermined the international rule of law through their various actions;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin violated the sovereignty of Ukraine and used military force to seize control and unlawfully occupy Crimea and eastern Ukraine, indiscriminately targeting and killing thousands of innocent civilians since 2014;

Whereas rebel forces supported by the Russian Federation were deemed responsible for

a missile attack on January 24, 2015, in Mariupol, Ukraine, that indiscriminately targeted civilians, resulting in the death of at least 30 people and injuring many more;

Whereas intelligence assessments have concluded Vladimir Putin and his regime have destroyed the rule of law in the Russian Federation and engaged in countless crimes against humanity, including ordering the poisoning of Alexi Navalny, the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, and the false imprisonment and torture ultimately leading to the death of Sergei Magnitsky;

Whereas armed forces of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin and the Security Council of the Russian Federation, initiated an unprovoked war against Ukraine based on false security claims and threats in February 2022;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin has allegedly committed war crimes in his reckless quest to decimate Ukraine and the people of Ukraine, including civilians, children, and women;

Whereas the people of the Russian Federation are suffering economic hardship from global sanctions as a direct result of President Vladimir Putin's erratic, illogical, and irrational actions;

Whereas the United States Government seeks the most productive relationship possible with the people of the Russian Federation for the sake of their own liberty and prosperity; and

Whereas the United States Government should use its voice, vote, and influence to pursue war crimes allegations against Vladimir Putin and his military commanders in international institutions of which it is a member and encourage other allies and partners to do the same: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the economic relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation should be considered to return to the level of that relationship before the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation that began on February 24, 2022, only when—

(A) the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and proxies of such forces withdraw from all territory of Ukraine such forces or proxies have occupied since February 24, 2022, and that withdrawal is verified by a supervision mission of the United Nations in Ukraine;

(B) the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased engaging in cyberattacks and disseminating anti-Ukraine, pro-Russian Federation propaganda and has committed to not engaging in such attacks or disseminating such propaganda in the future; and

(C) a free and fair election is held in the Russian Federation, as determined by the Secretary of State;

(2) as soon as possible after the date of agreement to this resolution—

(A) the President should direct the United States Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of an international justice mechanism for alleged war crimes and other alleged crimes of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes committed during the period of conflict in Ukraine;

(B) in the event that the United Nations is unable or unwilling to establish a mechanism described in subparagraph (A), the President should convene and convene the world's democracies for the purposes of establishing a regional or international justice mechanism for crimes described in that subparagraph;

(C) in working with other countries to establish such a regional or international jus-

tice mechanism, the United States should assist all partners in that effort to develop judicial procedures that enable the fair and open prosecution of persons accused of perpetrating such crimes;

(D) the United States should encourage, support, and collect any and all information that can be supplied to a justice mechanism described in subparagraph (A) or (B) for use as evidence to support the indictment and trial of any persons accused of crimes described in subparagraph (A), including the crime of aggression in Ukraine, as an immediate priority; and

(E) the United States should urge all other interested countries to apprehend and deliver into the custody of a justice mechanism described in subparagraph (A) or (B) persons indicted for crimes described in subparagraph (A) and urge all interested countries to provide any and all data and information pertaining to such crimes to that mechanism; and

(3) when the economic relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation returns to the level of that relationship before the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, as described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the President should organize and lead a presidential summit on Eastern European peace and security with the head of the successor government of the Russian Federation, which should include topics such as arms control and existing international fora such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Minsk Group, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(B) the Secretary of State should—

(i) begin a formal, consultative process with the United Nations Secretary General and all member countries of the United Nations to reimagine the United Nations Security Council; and

(ii) initiate talks with all Western allies regarding the reconstruction of Ukraine and humanitarian support to those affected by the war waged by President Vladimir Putin;

(C) the Senate should establish a special, interdisciplinary commission to make recommendations for the reimagining of a post-war, long-term collective security strategy for Europe, which includes consideration of the security concerns of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and other non-treaty partners; and

(D) the United States Government should call on the successor government of the Russian Federation to release all political prisoners held under the authority of the Russian Federation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have one request for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor, again today, to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. This is the seventh week in a row I have come out here to talk about the atrocities being committed by Russia and what more the United States and this Congress can do to support Ukraine in its fight for survival.

It has now been more than a month since Russia's assault on our ally Ukraine, an independent sovereign democracy, a democracy that just wants to live in peace.

Earlier today, Russia continued its cowardly and brutal bombing attacks on civilian targets in Ukraine. Some civilians, like those trapped in and surrounding Mariupol, are dying due to a lack of access to water and food.

Russia continues its assault on humanitarian corridors which are designed to allow safe passage for civilians fleeing the conflict and for life-saving humanitarian aid to come in to those who can't get out.

You may recall the theater in Mariupol, where people were taking refuge in the basement and using it as a bomb shelter. The words "children" in Russian were emblazoned with huge letters clear enough to see from the sky so that it would not be a target, but it was.

We just learned Friday that roughly 300 Ukrainian civilians were killed in that basement when the theater was hit by Russian bombs about a week ago—mostly women and children.

Vladimir Putin's war has resulted in death and destruction not seen in Europe since World War II. Thousands of civilians have been killed. Roughly, 10 million people have been displaced from their homes, and 3.6 million refugees, almost all women and children and the elderly, have fled the country they love, while men have stayed behind to fight the invaders.

In my recent visit to the Polish-Ukrainian border with three colleagues, I talked to dozens of refugees. Through their tears, they spoke of their apartments or houses that were destroyed. They spoke about their friends or family members who were injured or even killed. They talked about the pain of being separated from their husbands or fathers or brothers who had stayed behind to fight, not knowing their fate.

They pleaded for us to do more—to stop the missiles, stop the bombs, and they all said they wanted to return to their homeland as soon as they possibly could.

President Biden is just back from the region where he, too, met with refugees, and I am glad he went. He was clearly moved by what he saw and heard. I thought his speech in Poland Saturday was a powerful indictment of Russia's invasion and a strong statement of support for Ukraine, as well as a reminder that this battle in Ukraine is about the larger issue of freedom and democracy versus tyranny and authoritarianism.