

H.R. 539. An act to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-101).

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Report to accompany H.R. 3462, An act to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-102).

Report to accompany S. 1617, a bill to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-103).

Report to accompany S. 2042, a bill to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-104).

Report to accompany S. 2521, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an SBIC Working Group, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-105).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

*Dara Lindenbaum, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2027.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for certain teachers as a supplement to State effort to provide teachers with a livable wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4126. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 4127. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to address disclosures by directors, officers, and principal stockholders of foreign private issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 4128. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide certain information with respect to

unimplemented priority recommendations as part of the Comptroller General's annual reporting to Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 4129. A bill to promote peace through strength in Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 4130. A bill to repeal changes made by health care reform laws to the Medicare exception to the prohibition on certain physician referrals for hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 4131. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny the trade or business expense deduction for the reimbursement of employee costs of child gender transition procedure or travel to obtain an abortion; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 4132. A bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 609. A resolution recognizing widening threats to press freedom and free expression around the world, and reaffirming the vital role that a free and independent press plays in combating the growing threat of authoritarianism, countering misinformation and disinformation, documenting human rights abuses, informing local and international audiences about public health crises, and furthering discourse and debate to advance healthy democracies, in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 610. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the activities of transnational criminal organizations, including the use of illicit economies, illicit trade, and trade-based money laundering, pose a threat to the national interests and national security of the United States and allies and partners of the United States around the world; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. Res. 611. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) continues to make an invaluable contribution to the United States and international security, and recognizing that the United States will seek a successful Ninth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 612. A resolution recognizing women-owned small businesses for National Small Business Week; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Res. 613. A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2022, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 614. A resolution designating July 20, 2022, as "Glioblastoma Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 615. A resolution expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Republic of Poland to assist Ukrainian refugees and support the sovereignty of Ukraine following the Russian invasion of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. COONS):

S. Con. Res. 38. A concurrent resolution declaring a state of emergency due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in order to establish a waiver of the minimum tonnage requirements of section 55305 of title 46, United States Code; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 350

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 350, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs under part A of title XI of such Act relating to genetic diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 888

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 888, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on an individual's texture or style of hair.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II.

S. 1489

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1489, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of

1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 1614

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1614, a bill to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, and for other purposes.

S. 2065

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2065, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update eligibility for the supplemental security income program, and for other purposes.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2597

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 3164

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3164, a bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available.

S. 3361

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3361, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to modify the definition of franchise fee, and for other purposes.

S. 3579

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3579, a bill to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Indiana

(Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3629, a bill to authorize a study on certain exemptions for treatment of opioid use disorder through opioid treatment programs during the COVID-19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 3851

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3851, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish hospital care and medical services to veterans and dependents who were stationed at military installations at which those veterans and dependents were exposed to perfluorooctanoic acid or other perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain veterans who were stationed at military installations at which those veterans were exposed to such substances, and for other purposes.

S. 3854

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3854, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3881

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3881, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3907

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3907, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes.

S. 4087

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4087, a bill to require pension plans that offer participants and beneficiaries the option of receiving lifetime annuity payments as lump sum payments, to meet certain notice and disclosure requirements.

S. 4088

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4088, a bill to prohibit the

Secretary of Health and Human Services from lessening the stringency of, and to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from ceasing or lessening implementation of, the COVID-19 border health provisions through the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. 4124

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4124, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the Disinformation Governance Board of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Vaccine and Mask Requirements To Mitigate the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start Programs.

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Updating Payment Parameters, Section 1332 Waiver Implementing Regulations, and Improving Health Insurance Markets for 2022 and Beyond".

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the lying in state of the remains of the last Medal of Honor recipient of World War II, in order to honor the Greatest Generation and the more than 16,000,000 men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States from 1941 to 1945.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 609—RECOGNIZING WIDENING THREATS TO PRESS FREEDOM AND FREE EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD, AND REAFFIRMING THE VITAL ROLE THAT A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS PLAYS IN COMBATING THE GROWING THREAT OF AUTHORITARIANISM, COUNTERING MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION, DOCUMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, INFORMING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCES ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES, AND FURTHERING DISCOURSE AND DEBATE TO ADVANCE HEALTHY DEMOCRACIES, IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY ON MAY 3, 2022

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 609

Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who championed the necessity of a free press for a thriving democratic society, wisely declared, “Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.”;

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris on December 10, 1948, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the third day of May of each year to be “World Press Freedom Day”—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom;

(2) to evaluate press freedom around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-166) expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices published by the Department of State;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, and December 18, 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/163 and Resolution 74/157, respectively, on the safety of journalists and the problem of impunity by unequivocally condemning all attacks on, and violence against, journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in conflict and non-conflict situations;

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and various State constitutions protect freedom of the press in the United States;

Whereas the United States Government has used the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of

title XII of Public Law 114-328) to place targeted visa and economic sanctions on individuals, including for their roles in the targeted killings of journalists;

Whereas, in an effort to combat attacks against journalists, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken in February 2021 announced the Khashoggi Ban, a new policy allowing the Department of State to impose visa restrictions on individuals who, acting on behalf of a foreign government, are believed to have been directly engaged in serious, extraterritorial counter-dissident activities, including activities that suppress, harass, surveil, threaten, or harm journalists, activists, or other persons perceived to be dissidents for their work;

Whereas the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders, warns that the COVID-19 pandemic “illustrates the negative factors threatening the right to reliable information” and amplifies the many crises that threaten media freedom and pluralism;

Whereas the Freedom in the World 2022 report, published by Freedom House, marked the 16th consecutive year of decline in global freedom, with “some 38 percent of the global population liv[ing] in Not Free countries, the highest proportion since 1997”, and the organization’s *Freedom on the Net 2021* report identified 11 consecutive years of decline in internet freedom.

Whereas worsening media freedom has been one of the key drivers of these global declines, including attacks and prosecutions against journalists, pressure on media outlets, repressive regulatory and legal frameworks, internet shutdowns, and blocks on online sources of information;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists—

(1) at least 27 journalists were killed in 2021, 21 of whom were singled out in retaliation for their work;

(2) India and Mexico had the most retaliatory killings in 2021;

(3) at least 293 journalists were imprisoned in relation to their work on December 1, 2021, marking the sixth consecutive year that at least 250 journalists were imprisoned globally;

(4) China, Myanmar, Egypt, Vietnam, Belarus, and Turkey were responsible for nearly 50 percent of all jailed journalists worldwide; and

(5) journalists around the world have been targeted by sophisticated spyware products that pose a severe risk to their safety and the safety of their sources;

Whereas the Freedom to Write Index 2021, published by PEN America, noted that at least 277 writers and public intellectuals, including columnists and editorial journalists, were jailed across 36 different countries during 2021;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 362 journalists, 93 citizen journalists, and 20 media assistants were imprisoned as of April 22, 2022;

Whereas since the start of the Russia’s full-scale offensive against Ukraine, Reporters Without Borders has documented attacks directly targeting journalists wearing a “Press” armband including—

(1) the killing of 7 journalists;

(2) the torture by electric shock, beatings, and mock executions of journalists working for the international press; and

(3) the targeted kidnappings of journalists and their families in occupied regions of Ukraine to put pressure on their reporting;

Whereas in the Ukrainian territory of Crimea, Ukrainian journalists and bloggers have repeatedly been threatened, arbitrarily arrested, and tortured for resisting Russian occupation, such as the detention of Crimean journalist Vladyslav Yesipenko and Crimean

Tatar journalists Osman Arifmemetov, Rustem Sheikhaliev, and Remzi Bekirov;

Whereas media workers face heightened dangers in Russia, leading up to and following draconian censorship laws passed in the wake of the Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine have intensified already widespread harassment, repression, and government-driven retaliation, including in the cases of—

(1) Sergey Mikhaylov, publisher of independent newspaper Listok, who was arrested for spreading “fakes” about the Russian military;

(2) Mikhail Afanasyev, editor-in-chief of the online magazine Novy Fokus, who was charged with spreading false information about the Russian military;

(3) Natalya Tyshkevich, Vladimir Metelkin, Alla Gutnikova, and Armen Aramyan, the editors of student magazine DOXA, who were detained after refusing to take down a video informing Russian youth of their right to protest in support of Navalny; and

(4) Novaya Gazeta, a landmark independent newspaper, which ceased publication in Russia after receiving ominous warnings from Russia’s media regulator under its foreign agents law;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China, which according to Reporters Without Borders is currently detaining at least 127 journalists and forced 18 foreign correspondents to leave the country in 2020, has unleashed an onslaught of attacks on press freedom in China and Hong Kong, including through—

(1) state-sponsored censorship and disinformation campaigns limiting access to information about the novel coronavirus, including through its censorship of virus-related keywords on social media platforms;

(2) attacks on press freedom in Hong Kong, including the passage of the National Security Law, which poses an existential threat to the city’s tradition of press freedom, and the arrest and subsequent conviction of Jimmy Lai, owner of Hong Kong’s largest media outlet, Apple Daily, and an outspoken democracy advocate;

(3) arrests or other repressive actions against independent journalists and others in mainland China attempting to share uncensored news or opinion about the COVID-19 outbreak, including the detention of citizen journalist Chen Qiushi, who disappeared without explanation for longer than 600 days;

(4) the detention of journalists critical of the Government of China, including Chen Jieren, who remains in prison after being sentenced to 15 years in 2020, following 2 years of incommunicado detention, after blogging about allegations of corrupt local officials; and

(5) the 2017 disappearance of Uyghur journalist and poet Qurban Mamut following a visit to the United States to visit his son, and his subsequent detention and 15-year prison sentence for alleged “political crimes”;

Whereas Afghanistan under the Taliban remains one of the most repressive countries for journalists, with journalists subject to arrest, beatings and arbitrary restrictions on their work;

Whereas Belarus has witnessed sweeping attacks against the press since Alexander Lukashenka’s fraudulent election in August 2020, with journalists and media workers harassed, assaulted, imprisoned, or otherwise retaliated against for their work, including—

(1) Raman Pratasevich, a journalist in exile whose plane from Greece to Lithuania was illegally diverted by Belarusian authorities and forced to land in Minsk, allowing Pratasevich and his girlfriend Sofia Sapega to be arrested;