

to purchase a handgun. But the law doesn't apply to assault rifles.

It is simple logic: If you can't buy a beer, you should not be able to buy an assault weapon.

I urge my Republican colleagues to consider supporting this commonsense legislation that has wide public support. A recent poll conducted by POLITICO showed that 88 percent of Democrats and 68 percent of Republicans support requiring people to be 21 or older to purchase a firearm.

The Age 21 Act is a first step in the right direction. It is time for Congress to show the American public that we are taking action on an issue that touches the lives of millions of people every year.

I thank Senators BLUMENTHAL, CASEY, and KLOBUCHAR for their support and urge the rest of my colleagues to support the bill as well.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4279. A bill to increase efficiency and conservation in public water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2022. This legislation would provide \$550 million for the Environmental Protection Agency to address water inefficiencies and losses in public water systems.

Leaking pipes waste an estimated 17 percent of water before a drop reaches a consumer's faucet. In my home State of California, 8 percent is wasted in a State that cannot afford any waste as we face the worst drought in 1,200 years.

Water efficiency is the most cost-effective way to ensure clean, affordable drinking water for communities across the country. Much like energy efficiency measures, improving water efficiency saves consumers money, reduces demand, decreases strain on water supply systems, and saves energy.

Yet Federal spending on energy efficiency and renewable energy has outpaced spending on water efficiency and water reuse by approximately 80 to 1 since 2000, resulting in millions of gallons wasted each year that could otherwise be saved or utilized.

The Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2022 creates a suite of options for States, municipalities, water systems, and Tribal nations to address water inefficiencies and losses in public water systems and to support leak reduction as one of the most cost-effective urban water management tools we have.

Achieving widespread water efficiency will require both inside-the-home and inside-the-system upgrades. Fixes at the individual building level can add up to make a big difference. The EPA estimates that installation of water-efficient fixtures and appliances can reduce water use 20 percent, saves money for consumers as well.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided a historic level of water infrastructure investment—including for Bureau of Reclamation States and for wastewater efficiency—but more investment is needed in the water systems that deliver drinking water to our homes and businesses across all States.

As the Western United States and much of the Southeast enter another year of historic drought, investing in resilient water supplies is an increasingly urgent priority for the States, water systems, and families facing rising water rates.

In a survey completed as part of a 2014 GAO report, 40 out of 50 State water managers expected water shortages in some portion of their State in the next decade. Improving water efficiency saves money, decreases strain on water supply systems, and saves energy.

I would like to thank my House colleague, Congressman MCNERNEY, for championing this effort with me, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Water Efficiency, Conservation, and Sustainability Act of 2022 as we enter into the third year of this unprecedented, unrelenting drought.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 644—ESTABLISHING A WOMEN'S BILL OF RIGHTS TO REAFFIRM LEGAL PROTECTIONS AFFORDED TO WOMEN UNDER FEDERAL LAW

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 644

Whereas male and female individuals possess unique and immutable biological differences that manifest prior to birth and increase with age and puberty;

Whereas biological differences between the sexes mean that only females can get pregnant, give birth, and breastfeed children;

Whereas biological differences between the sexes mean that males are, on average, larger in size and possess greater body strength than females;

Whereas biological differences between the sexes can expose females to greater harm than males from specific forms of violence, including sexual violence;

Whereas women have achieved inspirational and significant accomplishments in education, athletics, and employment; and

Whereas recent misguided court rulings relating to the definition of "sex" have led to the endangerment of spaces and resources dedicated to women, thereby necessitating clarification of certain terms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate reaffirms that—
(1) for the purpose of Federal law, the "sex" of an individual means his or her biological sex (either male or female) at birth;

(2) for the purpose of Federal law, the terms "woman" and "girl" refer to human females, and the terms "man" and "boy" refer to human males;

(3) for the purpose of Federal law, the word "mother" means a parent of the female sex and "father" is defined as a parent of the male sex;

(4) there are important reasons to distinguish between the sexes with respect to athletics, prisons, domestic violence shelters, restrooms, and with respect to other areas, particularly where biology, safety, and privacy are implicated;

(5) policies and laws that distinguish between the sexes are subject to intermediate constitutional scrutiny and permitted when they serve an important governmental objective and are substantially related to achieving that objective; and

(6) for the purposes of complying with Federal laws that require State and local government agencies to collect or report data disaggregated by sex, such as Federal anti-discrimination laws, agencies are required to base such data on the biological sex of individuals at birth.

SENATE RESOLUTION 645—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. HALE-CUSANELLI

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 645

Whereas, in the case of United States v. Hale-Cusanelli, Cr. No. 21-37, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and from Nate Russell and Diego Torres, custodians of records in the Senate Recording Studio, a department of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, and Nate Russell and Diego Torres, custodians of records in the Senate Recording Studio, are authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of United States v. Hale-Cusanelli, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Messrs. Schwager, Russell, and Torres, and any current or former officer or employee of their offices, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 646—EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT FOR FINLAND AND SWEDEN'S ACCESSION INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) AND THE EXPEDITED RATIFICATION OF ACCESSION PROTOCOLS

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 646

Whereas Sweden and Finland are substantial contributors to the international community and play important roles in the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations;

Whereas, during the Cold War and since its end, Sweden and Finland sought to maintain peace in their region through policies of military non-alignment and neutral relations between Russia and the West, while nonetheless remaining true to their values and condemning the Russian government's authoritarian acts;

Whereas the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022, forced the transatlantic community to reconsider the geopolitical stability of their region;

Whereas NATO is the most successful political-military alliance in history and, guided by a set of common values, provides collective defense to nearly 1,000,000,000 people living in its member nations;

Whereas the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine marks the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II, representing a dramatic shift for European security and requiring NATO to change its policies to increase, modernize, and enhance its force posture and to create more strategic depth to adequately confront the new challenges, specifically those posed by Russia and China;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have provided incredible support to NATO-led operations, such as the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, KFOR in Kosovo, and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas both Finland and Sweden have been model members of NATO's Partnership Interoperability Initiative since its founding in 2014, and of NATO's Partnership for Peace since its founding in 1994;

Whereas NATO has a range of capabilities that can enhance the ability of Sweden and Finland to defend and deter conflict in their region;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have well-developed professional militaries and sophisticated defense industries that can provide NATO with new capabilities to bolster collective defense;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have proven their willingness and capability to contribute to cooperative international security efforts by donating military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and imposing coordinated sanctions on Russia;

Whereas each prospective NATO member is expected to have a functioning democratic political system based on a market economy, fair treatment of minority populations, a commitment to resolve conflicts peacefully, an ability and willingness to make contribution to NATO operations, and a commitment to democratic civil-military relations and institutions;

Whereas, alongside a number of our European allies, Finland and Sweden have recently announced the expansion and reform of their militaries, efforts that can be maximized if channeled toward collective security through the NATO framework;

Whereas the Arctic region, which holds increasing importance for United States and European security, has already seen encroachments from Russia and China, and Sweden and Finland are uniquely poised to address these regional challenges and help NATO confront them; and

Whereas Russia has threatened Sweden and Finland with "serious military and political consequences should it choose to join NATO": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Finland and Sweden's decision to join NATO;

(2) acknowledges that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dramatically changed the security situation in Europe, and that the reform and expansion of NATO is key to ensuring a safe and prosperous future for the United States and critical allies and partners;

(3) recognizes that Sweden and Finland have surpassed the qualifications expected of prospective members and that both countries have much to contribute and gain from membership in the NATO alliance;

(4) reaffirms its support for NATO's collective security commitment and for maximizing our allies' combined defense capabilities through NATO coordination and cooperation;

(5) calls on the President to move expeditiously to complete all documents and reports needed to support the Senate's approval of the accession protocols; and

(6) calls on all NATO members to move rapidly to complete their ratification processes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5042. Ms. HIRONO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes..

SA 5043. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5044. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5042. Ms. HIRONO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 7 and 8 and insert the following:

(1) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Blackwell School National Historic Site Proposed Boundary", numbered 593/178387, and dated February 2022.

On page 5, strike lines 21 through 24.

On page 6, line 1, strike "(2)" and insert "(1)".

On page 6, line 4, strike "(3)" and insert "(2)".

SA 5043. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 502. OFFSET OF COSTS USING UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances made available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2; 135 Stat. 4), or an amendment made by such Act, there is rescinded, on a pro rata basis, the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of such unobligated balances by an amount equal to the total amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SA 5044. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. OFFSET OF COSTS USING UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND AND THE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances made available under section 602(a) or 603(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802(a), 803(a)), there is rescinded, on a pro rata basis, the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of such unobligated balances by an amount equal to the total amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have six requests 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet