

(Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4359, a bill to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the “Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office”, and for other purposes.

S. 4419

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4419, a bill to require small, medium, and large hub airports to certify that airport service workers are paid the prevailing wage and provided fringe benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 4434

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4434, a bill to protect the privacy of personal reproductive or sexual health information, and for other purposes.

S. 4467

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4467, a bill to preserve access to abortion medications.

S. 4478

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4478, a bill to provide for assistance to improve the resilience of historic light stations, to study the long-term protection needs of historic light stations, and to establish a national database of historic light stations, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 182

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 182, a resolution recognizing the late Gilbert Metz, the last Holocaust survivor who lived in Mississippi, and commending all educators who teach about the Holocaust and all genocide.

S. RES. 669

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from

Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 669, a resolution condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine.

S. RES. 694

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 694, a resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2022 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 702—CON- DEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS IN MEXICO AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENING DETERRENT, PROTECTIVE, AND ACCOUNT- ABILITY MEASURES TO PRE- VENT VIOLENCE AGAINST JOUR- NALISTS AND SAFEGUARD THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN MEXICO

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 702

Whereas the United States and Mexico share extensive economic, security, cultural, and democratic ties, especially a mutual commitment to respecting and promoting universally recognized human rights, democratic values, and the rule of law;

Whereas freedom of the press is an essential component of democratic governance, as recognized in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, done at Lima September 11, 2001, and journalists should have the right to report the news objectively, in safety, without retribution or threats thereof;

Whereas attacks against journalists and other media workers is a significant concern for freedom of the press and human rights in Mexico, especially among journalists and other media workers who report on public corruption and illicit activities and are frequently subject to threats, coercion, intimidation, surveillance, forcible relocation, violence, and even death;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, more than 150 journalists have been killed in Mexico since 2000;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, Mexico was the most dangerous country in the world outside a war zone for journalists for the third consecutive year in 2021 and ranked 127 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index in 2022;

Whereas, as of 2022, the Committee to Protect Journalists has documented 15 cases of missing reporters in Mexico, the highest number of any country in the world;

Whereas, in 2022, at least 12 extrajudicial killings of journalists have occurred in Mexico, including the killings of—

- (1) José Luis Gamboa Arenas on January 10;
- (2) Alfonso Margarito Martínez Esquivel on January 17;
- (3) Maria Guadalupe Lourdes Maldonado López on January 23;
- (4) Roberto Toledo Barrera on January 31;
- (5) Heber López Vásquez on February 10;
- (6) Jorge Luis Camero Zazueta on February 24;
- (7) Juan Carlos Muñiz on March 4;
- (8) Armando Linares López on March 15;
- (9) Luis Enrique Ramírez on May 5;
- (10) Yessenia Mollinedo Falconi on May 9;
- (11) Sheila Johana García Olivera on May 9; and
- (12) Antonio de la Cruz on June 29;

Whereas at least 9 of the 12 journalists murdered in Mexico in 2022 were killed in direct connection with their work, according to Reporters without Borders;

Whereas the President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, has sometimes demonstrated hostility towards the free press and enabled an unsafe working environment for independent journalists by regularly, publicly disparaging and intimidating journalists who are critical of the policies of or investigate corruption related to associates of his administration;

Whereas perpetrators of violence against journalists in Mexico are rarely held to account, with Mexico ranking among the countries with the most unsolved murders of journalists per capita and more than 95 percent of crimes against journalists in the country going unpunished, according to the International Federation of Journalists;

Whereas initiatives taken thus far by the Government of Mexico to address violence against journalists, namely the creation of the Federal Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists (referred to in this preamble as the “Federal Protection Mechanism”) in 2012, have not achieved stated goals and have been marred by significant implementation issues, according to a March 2019 report by the Washington Office on Latin America, including—

- (1) insufficient financial and human resources;
- (2) inadequate risk analysis and protection protocols;
- (3) limited transparency and oversight; and
- (4) limited coordination between local, state, and national entities;

Whereas the decision by President López Obrador to eliminate independent funding for the Federal Protection Mechanism in October 2020 has the potential to further exacerbate the resource constraints of the Federal Protection Mechanism and undermine the ability of the Federal Protection Mechanism to protect at-risk journalists and other human rights defenders;

Whereas, as a result of a failure to rectify recognized issues with the Federal Protection Mechanism, at least 9 journalists have been killed while receiving protection in Mexico, with the majority of such journalists killed during the tenure of President López Obrador, according to Human Rights Watch;

Whereas the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico have expressed concerns about violence against journalists in Mexico, asserting that “impunity in attacks against journalists fosters further violence against reporters and may inhibit the exercise of freedom of expression”, and offered recommendations to address such concerns;

Whereas, on March 10, 2022, the European Parliament passed a resolution on the situation of journalists and human rights defenders in Mexico; and

Whereas the United States Government has expressed concern about violence against journalists in Mexico and demonstrated a willingness to assist the Government of Mexico in strengthening human rights protections and freedom of the press: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses unwavering commitment to and support for strengthening deterrent, protective, and accountability measures to prevent violence against journalists and safeguard the freedom of the press in Mexico;

(2) condemns consistently high levels of violence against journalists in Mexico, including recent and ongoing spikes in extrajudicial killings and high levels of impunity for such violence;

(3) encourages the Government of Mexico—
(A) to strengthen efforts to protect the free press and journalists, including by—

(i) committing sufficient resources to address threats to the free press and journalists; and

(ii) tailoring protection measures to account for the specific challenges of conducting journalistic work;

(B) to ensure a thorough and impartial investigation into all threats of violence reported by journalists and the provision of immediate access to protective measures for journalists who make such reports;

(C) to refrain from actions and statements that create a more hostile environment for the free press and journalists;

(D) to pursue public awareness campaigns to recognize and elevate journalistic work and the freedom of the press;

(E) to pursue effective measures, in close coordination with local and state entities and civil society organizations, to strengthen deterrent, protective, and accountability measures to address violence against journalists; and

(F) to conduct comprehensive and transparent investigations into the deaths of journalists to ensure all responsible parties are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law;

(4) encourages further efforts by the Government of Mexico—

(A) to address deficiencies within the Federal Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists (referred to in this resolution as the “Federal Protection Mechanism”);

(B) to bolster the capability of the Federal Protection Mechanism to achieve its stated purpose; and

(C) to develop additional measures that incorporate relevant recommendations by civil society groups, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to safeguard journalists and the free press;

(5) supports efforts by civil society groups, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights—

(A) to monitor violence against journalists and media workers in Mexico;

(B) to provide technical assistance and other support to the Government of Mexico to address concerns about such violence; and

(C) to disseminate accurate information on the state of freedom of the press in Mexico; and

(6) calls on the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development to prioritize the protection of the media and efforts to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cases of violence against journalists in diplomatic engagement with, and foreign assistance to, Mexico.

SENATE RESOLUTION 703—DESIGNATING JUNE 2022 AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH” AND JUNE 27, 2022, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 703

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States—

(1) risk their lives to protect the freedom, health, and welfare of the people of the United States; and

(2) deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas, since the events of September 11, 2001, nearly 2,800,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas and served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the current generation of men and women in the Armed Forces has sustained a high rate of operational deployments, with many members of the Armed Forces serving overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of enduring traumatic combat stress;

Whereas, when left untreated, exposure to traumatic combat stress can lead to severe and chronic post-traumatic stress responses, which are commonly referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as “PTSD”) or post-traumatic stress injury;

Whereas many men and women of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, live with mental health needs from post-traumatic stress and remain at risk for responses to that stress;

Whereas many post-traumatic stress responses remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about post-traumatic stress and the persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas post-traumatic stress significantly increases the risk of post-traumatic stress responses, including anxiety, depression, homelessness, substance abuse, and suicide, especially if left untreated;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) between 11 and 20 percent of veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom have post-traumatic stress in a given year;

(2) approximately 12 percent of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War have post-traumatic stress in a given year; and

(3) approximately 30 percent of veterans who served in the Vietnam era have had post-traumatic stress in their lifetimes;

Whereas public perceptions of post-traumatic stress as a mental health disorder create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans service organizations, and the private and public medical community have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of post-traumatic stress and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of post-traumatic stress can help eliminate stigma

attached to the mental health issues of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to eliminate the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including—

(1) an examination of how post-traumatic stress is discussed in the United States; and

(2) a recognition that post-traumatic stress is a common injury that is treatable;

Whereas timely and appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress responses can diminish complications and avert suicides;

Whereas post-traumatic stress—

(1) can result from any number of stressors other than combat, including rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, natural disasters, or global pandemics; and

(2) affects approximately 12,000,000 adults in the United States annually;

Whereas the diagnosis of PTSD was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat survivors of physical and psychological trauma, including veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress;

Whereas the word “disorder” can perpetuate the stigma associated with combat stress, so the more general term “post-traumatic stress” is often preferred; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day raises public awareness about issues relating to post-traumatic stress, reduces the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, and helps ensure that individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates—

(A) June 2022 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month”; and

(B) June 27, 2022, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and the entire medical community to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

(3) supports efforts by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to foster—

(A) cultural change around the issue of post-traumatic stress; and

(B) understanding that personal interactions can save lives and advance treatment;

(4) welcomes the efforts of the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of the Department of Veterans Affairs and local Vet Centers (as defined in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United States Code) to provide assistance to veterans who are suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress;

(5) encourages the leadership of the Armed Forces to support appropriate treatment of men and women of the Armed Forces who suffer from post-traumatic stress;

(6) recognizes the impact of post-traumatic stress on the spouses and families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

(7) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(B) the Secretary of Defense.