

S. RES. 638

Whereas, on February 18, 2022, the United States and Moldova marked 30 years of diplomatic relations;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, armed forces of the Russian Federation began an illegal, unjustified, and unprovoked attack on Ukraine with missile strikes against densely populated urban areas, including Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, and the regional hubs of Odesa and Mykolayiv, which lie close to Moldova;

Whereas Moldova is a country of approximately 2,600,000 people that relies heavily on remittances sent to Moldova by the Moldovan diaspora;

Whereas, in 2011, the Government of Moldova passed a law entitled “Law on Integration of Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova”, which provided refugees and beneficiaries of humanitarian protection access to social security, primary and secondary education, medical insurance, cultural integration support, language classes, and employment counseling;

Whereas, prior to the most recent invasion of Ukraine by President Vladimir Putin, the Government of Moldova assessed that the infrastructure in Moldova could accommodate not more than 15,000 refugees;

Whereas, only one day after the commencement of the unconscionable attack on Ukraine by President Putin, the people of Moldova welcomed more than 16,000 refugees;

Whereas, since 2014, more than 450,000 refugees fleeing the invasion of Ukraine by President Putin had entered Moldova and more than 100,000 of such refugees chose to remain in Moldova;

Whereas, by March 7, 2022, 89 percent of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Moldova were women and children;

Whereas, by March 9, 2022, an estimated 6 out of every 100 people in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, were refugees;

Whereas, by April 26, 2022, refugees comprised more than 16 percent of the population of Moldova;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representative for Central Europe Roland Schilling said, “The attitude of Moldovan authorities is really impressive”, and noted that “local communities came to help refugees, feeding them, supporting them” at the border;

Whereas the Government of Moldova has created “green corridors” to facilitate the crossing of refugees from Ukraine to Romania and other countries in the European Union;

Whereas, over the past year, the Government of Moldova and civil society have embarked on meaningful reform of the justice system and promoted good governance and economic stability in Moldova;

Whereas, on March 3, 2022, Moldova formally submitted its application to join the European Union, signaling a commitment to democratic values and the rule of law;

Whereas, on March 16, 2022, the European Union announced that Moldova and Ukraine had completed the emergency synchronization process with the Continental Euro-

pean Grid, operated by the European Network of Transmission System Operators;

Whereas, as of April 21, 2022, the United States has provided more than \$25,000,000 to support humanitarian operations in Moldova;

Whereas, on April 22, 2022, a senior military official of the Russian Federation indicated that the Russian Federation intended to conquer southern Ukraine and join that territory with Transnistria, a breakaway region of Moldova; and

Whereas, in late April and early May 2022, reports of unexplained explosions in Transnistria elevated concerns that the Russia Federation could expand its war into Moldova: Now, therefore, be it

[Resolved,]

That the Senate—

(1) commends the people of Moldova for their hospitality and extraordinary efforts hosting more than 100,000 refugees fleeing Ukraine;

(2) condemns provocation and aggressive action by the Russian Federation in the Transnistria region of Moldova;

(3) reaffirms the sovereignty of Moldova and supports the choice of the Government of Moldova to further integrate with structures of the European Union;

(4) calls on the United States Government to continue to provide meaningful and targeted financial and technical support to Moldova;

(5) calls on international partners to join the United States in providing swift and immediate humanitarian aid to Ukrainians in Moldova;

(6) calls on the United States Government to continue working with the European Network of Transmission System Operators, the Government of Moldova, and the Government of Ukraine to complete full synchronization of the electricity grids of Moldova and Ukraine with the Continental European Grid; and

(7) expresses support for the ongoing efforts by the Government of Moldova to reform the justice sector, promote good governance, and bolster the energy security of Moldova.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution, as amended.

The resolution (S. Res. 638), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2022

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Heinzelman nomination postcloture; that all postcloture time be considered expired at 11:45 a.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; further, that following the vote, the Senate resume consideration of the Childs nomination, and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination at 1:45 p.m.; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. For the information of the Senate, the first rollcall vote of the day will begin at 11:45 a.m. on confirmation of the Heinzelman nomination to be General Counsel of the CIA, with another vote at 1:45 p.m. on the motion to invoke cloture on the Childs nomination to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators PORTMAN and WYDEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(Mr. WHITEHOUSE assumed the Chair.)

The Senator from Oregon.

WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this is an exciting time for my home State of Oregon. The eyes of the sports world are turning to the city of Eugene, where thousands of elite athletes have arrived for the World Athletics Championships that start Friday.

For those who may not have been paying attention, Eugene, OR, is known in track-and-field circles as TrackTown USA. Eugene has fewer than 200,000 residents, but it punches far above its weight as one of the athletic capitals of the world, particularly the newly rebuilt Hayward Field on campus at the University of Oregon.

My view is, you are not going to find a better track-and-field venue anywhere else. And that is not only because it is where the Oregon Ducks routinely fly past the competition; it is the home of track and field in the United States dating back decades to when Bill Hayward first had his vision for the sports in Eugene.

It is a vision that picked up speed when Oregon's own Steve Prefontaine provided drills for me when I was a law school student at the University of Oregon, as well as millions of running fans the world over. And, of course, Hayward Field has been home for Olympics trials in greatness, as well as dominance by my fellow Ducks in college meets.

The legacy of athletics in Eugene is a big reason why it is the first ever American city to host the World Athletics Championships. This year, the games are known as Oregon22.

Two thousand top Olympic-level athletes are going to compete. They come from nearly 200 countries. They are the best of the best, ready to break records and make their home countries proud.

A little bit ago, I was home, and I talked with the fantastic team of workers who have been working for years on this event. It has been a colossal team effort carrying the baton over the line, but now, the games are about to start. And I can tell you an awful lot of Oregonians are thrilled at the prospect of witnessing this level of unique competition in person at Hayward Field and across the Willamette River in the streets of Springfield.

This is also a spectacular showcase for my home State. Not only is Eugene playing host to thousands of athletes, organizers, staff, media, and fans, the games will be broadcast to an audience of a billion people around the world—let me repeat that—a billion people who are going to learn something about what makes my home State so special and different.

London has hosted this competition. Paris has hosted this competition.

Tokyo has hosted this competition. Now it is our turn in Eugene, OR, and I could not be more proud.

So, Mr. President, I would just say everybody ought to tune in from July 15 to July 24. The athletes are going to put on an amazing show, and so is my home State of Oregon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Ohio.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to talk about border security—a humanitarian, a national security, a community safety issue with direct connection to the drug epidemic we see in communities all around the country, including my home State of Ohio.

I am also here to talk about legislation I introduced today with Senator JIM RISCH to address this crisis. So we are in the middle right now of what is the biggest border crisis in the history of our country if you measure it by the number of people who are coming to the border unlawfully and, as the Biden administration says, people who are encountering the Border Patrol.

The Biden administration claims that they have the border under control and that they are—and I am quoting—doing a good job. This chart, though, tells a really different story. It shows that as of May, which is the last month that we have records for, we had the highest number of border encounters on record. The second highest, by the way, was the month before: April. So you see this goes back to 2019. There was a surge here—144,000. Here, we have the inauguration of President Biden, and then we have had big increases—again, to the point that over the last couple of months, we have had record numbers of people who have come unlawfully to the border and been stopped by, apprehended by, the Border Patrol.

This includes 239,000 total encounters at the border in the month of May—165,000 of which were single, adult migrants. This does not include those who were not encountered—in other words, those who slipped past the Border Patrol. We haven't been able to find a precise number for these individuals.

The Border Patrol calls this group of people got-aways. But using a conservative estimate from the Border Patrol of 300,000 people who they think got away in the last fiscal year, you would then put the total number of unlawful entries at approximately 286,000 people in 1 month. If you annualize that, that would be 3.4 million people a year. Think about those numbers: almost 3½ million people a year coming to our border and attempting to gain entry unlawfully.

Today, not all of those who are apprehended are allowed to come into the United States, and that is because under so-called title 42, roughly half of those individuals who are being apprehended, who are being encountered, are

turned back. If they live in Mexico, they are sent back across the border. If they live in a country—say Ecuador or Guatemala—they are sent back, flown back to their country of origin. But these are people who are being turned away because of title 42.

So what is title 42? It is a public health authority. It is an attempt by our government to limit migration in order to prevent the spread of communicable diseases—in this case, COVID-19. It allows the Customs and Border Protection officers and agents to tell unlawful migrants: You can't come to the United States for these public health reasons. It only applies, by the way, now to single adults; but, as I said earlier, that is the single biggest group. It comprises about 48 to 52 percent—about half—of the people who are coming up to the border.

So even with the use of title 42, which is acting to discourage people from coming to our border, we are experiencing these record levels. We are also experiencing these record levels in these hot summer months. Normally, when you get into the summertime where it gets really hot—look here at May, June, July, August—the number of people coming to the border goes down, not up. It is over 100 degrees in the desert and at the Rio Grande, at almost all of these border crossings along the U.S.-Mexican border. Yet we have more, not less.

There is anecdotal information that this is because people are realizing that the administration wants to end title 42. They have proposed to do that. That is now in the court system. But the cartels are spreading the message, which is: Now is the time to come because, before, you were turned away by title 42. Now, like everybody else, you can come into the United States and stay. And we will talk in a moment about what that means.

But I think that is probably true. Probably title 42 has something to do with it. But I think, also, it has to do with the fact that more and more people are realizing that if they do come to the border and don't get stopped by title 42, they will have a chance to come into the United States and live in the United States with their families, perhaps; if not, maybe bring in their families later. And everybody wants to come to America. We are a great country.

We have our challenges, as we talk about on the floor here all the time. But, still, we are a country with so many opportunities for people, and folks want to come. And I don't blame them. I don't blame them. But we want them to come legally.

And we currently have the most generous legal immigration system of any country in the world. About 900,000 people a year—almost a million people a year—come legally to the United States, most as legal immigrants, some as refugees. And so we encourage that, and we should.

In fact, I think we should bring more people in legally, particularly to fill