

as we resolved ambiguities in the ECA and its potential misinterpretation, we should have done the same with this critical right of private action under the Voting Rights Act—a missed opportunity.

As a recent report from the Brennan Center points out, State legislatures have been working to make it harder to vote after the 2020 elections, even after witnessing record turnout during the pandemic. The Brennan Center wrote that in 2022:

[S]tate lawmakers, who spent 2021 passing laws that made it harder to vote, have focused more intently on election interference, passing nine laws that could lead to tampering with how elections are run and how results are determined.

Election interference laws do two primary things. They open the door to partisan interference in elections, or they threaten the people and processes that make elections work. In many cases, these efforts are being justified as measures to combat baseless claims of widespread voter fraud and a stolen 2020 election.

The Brennan Center noted that in many of these same State legislatures, lawmakers have continued to introduce or enact laws that restrict access to the vote. Legislation is categorized as restrictive if it would make it harder for eligible Americans to register, stay on the rolls, and/or to vote as compared to existing State law.

Free and fair elections are fundamental to who we are as a nation. For this reason, I strongly support the bipartisan working group's proposal to reform and modernize the ECA. As we saw in the 2020 elections, different interpretations of the Electoral Count Act can lead down a dangerous path to another January 6-style insurrection, when former President Donald Trump and his enablers attempted to overturn a free and fair election won by President Joe Biden.

Congress's work will not be complete when we pass this bipartisan proposal. We still must take up and pass voting rights legislation in order to safeguard the right to vote, which should be a right guaranteed to all Americans, regardless of their race, wealth, or social status.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Maryland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 1045, 1046, 1047, 1049, 1057, 1058, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements re-

lated to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Leslie N. Bluhm, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2023; Lisette Nieves, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2022; Lisette Nieves, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2027. (Reappointment); Deborah R. Coen, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2028; Enix Smith III, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years; Adair Ford Boroughs, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years; PN1948 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Sara C. Schuman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 7, 2022; and PN1949 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Alyce Camille Richardson, and ending Diane Jones, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 7, 2022, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF COUNTERING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 411, S. Res. 568.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 568) supporting the goals and ideals of "Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month" and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 568) was agreed to.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I further 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, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 30, 2022, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING, HONORING, AND COMMENDING THE WOMEN OF UKRAINE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND THE DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 412, S. Res. 589.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 589) recognizing, honoring, and commending the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part in italic, and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 589

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin instigated an unprovoked, unjustified, and unlawful war violating the territorial integrity of the sovereign country of Ukraine;

Whereas, in response to this invasion, the people of Ukraine marshaled their will to defend their country and shared belief in a sovereign Ukraine in order to resist the imperialist ambitions of Vladimir Putin;

Whereas countless Ukrainian men, women, and children have done their part to defend democracy and freedom in Ukraine;

Whereas women have played a key role in defending Ukraine, keeping their families and innocent children safe and responding to the invasion by the Russian Federation;

Whereas, in the first 3 months of fighting in Ukraine, more than 6,100,000 Ukrainians, of which the majority are women and children, fled the country in response to Putin's war;

Whereas women play a critical role in facilitating the transit of children to safety, including by escorting the children of parents and guardians who cannot leave Ukraine so that such children are able to find safety in neighboring countries;

Whereas the women who remain in Ukraine contribute to all aspects of warfighting, including by fighting on the front lines and as part of the territorial defense, delivering supplies and weapons, and preparing cities for assaults by the Russian Federation;

Whereas between 15 and 17 percent of the armed forces of Ukraine are women;

Whereas the women of Ukraine have a long history of defending Ukraine and standing up for their rights and freedoms;

Whereas, following the 2014 invasion of the sovereign and independent state of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the women of Ukraine joined the fight to preserve their independence;

Whereas, despite significant contributions to the war effort now and since 2014, outdated legislation in Ukraine classifies women as cooks, tailors, and administrative assistants;

Whereas women are an integral part of the armed forces of Ukraine and continue to defend their homes and their country;

Whereas, on March 9, the armed forces of the Russian Federation deliberately attacked civilian targets in Mariupol, Ukraine, which destroyed a hospital that served as both a maternity ward and a children's hospital, killing two women and a baby;

Whereas, following the devastating attack on the well-known and established hospital, the world watched in horror as pregnant women, mothers carrying newborn babies, and young children fled the rubble of what should have been a safe place;

Whereas the women at the hospital should have been celebrating new life and looking toward raising their children in peace and safety, instead, those women are seeking shelter in subways, giving birth in bunkers, and worrying for the safety of their children and the future of Ukraine;

Whereas the attack on the maternity ward and children's hospital in Mariupol was the fourth such attack on a maternity ward in Ukraine by the Russian Federation since the beginning of the invasion on February 24;

Whereas, according to Save the Children, more than 63,000 women have given birth since the start of the war, while the United Nations estimates that 80,000 Ukrainian women will give birth in between April and June of 2022;

Whereas all women, in every situation, have the right to a safe birth and access to crucial supplies necessary for the management of pregnancy complications, including oxygen and medical supplies, which are running dangerously low in Ukraine because of the ongoing violence and refusal on the part of the Russian Federation to allow for safe passage for humanitarian purposes;

Whereas, on March 17, 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken described the deliberate targeting of civilians in Ukraine as a war crime, which should be investigated as such;

Whereas, on March 23, 2022, Secretary Blinken announced that it was the assessment of the United States Government that "members of Russia's forces have committed war crimes in Ukraine" based on "a careful review of available information from public and intelligence sources";

Whereas the Russian Federation has deliberately attacked civilians and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, including schools, hospitals, businesses, apartment buildings, and utility services;

Whereas the initial days of the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation have resulted in a disproportionate number of women and children seeking safety outside of Ukraine;

Whereas Ukrainian women and girls, like women and girls in all humanitarian emergencies, including women and girls forced to leave their homes in conflict settings, face increased and exacerbated vulnerabilities to—

(1) gender-based violence, including rape, child marriage, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation and assault;

(2) all forms of human trafficking;

(3) disruptions in education and livelihood;

(4) lack of access to health care; and

(5) food insecurity and malnutrition;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on October 31, 2000, acknowledging

the impact of conflict and security decisions on women and calling on all member states to include "women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict";

Whereas, according to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (commonly referred to as "UN Women"), peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women and women's groups play a meaningful role in the negotiation process, and according to the International Peace Institute, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;

Whereas, in 2016, Ukraine adopted its first National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and, on October 28, 2020, Ukraine approved a new National Action Plan for 2021 through 2025 in order to address the impact on women of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and to ensure gender equality in the security and defense sectors of Ukraine;

Whereas representation of women in politics in Ukraine has increased steadily since the first parliament of an independent Ukraine met in 1990;

Whereas more than 20 percent of seats in the ninth and current Verkhovna Rada are held by women, the most in Ukrainian history;

Whereas women across Ukraine have made political gains in recent years, including in local elections on October 25, 2020, where 38 percent of deputies elected were women; and

Whereas women in Ukraine should be involved at all levels and in all aspects of leadership, negotiation, conflict resolution, and peacekeeping in order to ensure the most enduring peace for Ukraine and the region: Now, therefore, be it

[Resolved.]

That the Senate—

(1) recognizes, honors, and commends the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine, including women who—

(A) are members of the Armed Forces and the Territorial Defense Forces of Ukraine;

(B) are volunteers, organizing and operating humanitarian organizations;

(C) are doctors, nurses, paramedics, and support personnel, providing life-saving services across Ukraine;

(D) have mobilized to assist the safe transfer of the children and other vulnerable individuals from Ukraine; and

(E) are public leaders, politicians, and diplomats;

(2) stands with the people of Ukraine in support of their fight for freedom against the Russian Federation;

(3) acknowledges the women who have risked their lives to travel through territory controlled by the Russian Federation, break siege tactics surrounding cities, and to ensure the safety of children and the elderly;

(4) commends—

(A) the bordering countries of Ukraine, including Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and Moldova, who are accommodating more than 6,000,000 refugees; and

(B) the broader European Union for committing to provide support during the growing humanitarian crisis;

(5) calls on all countries to ensure that aid provided in support of refugees fleeing Ukraine and internally displaced persons within Ukraine takes into account the needs of women and the gender-specific risks that women face in seeking safety;

(6) acknowledges the important role women must play in resolving the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution

1325 (2016) and required by the laws of the United States and regulations of Ukraine;

(7) further calls on all countries to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in negotiations and decision-making at all levels, including security decisions; and

(8) commits to supporting the women of Ukraine wherever they are as they fight back against tyranny and work for the free and democratic future of Ukraine.

Mr. CARDIN. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motion 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 committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 589), as amended, was agreed to.

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

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF KXEL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to congratulate News Talk 1540 KXEL on celebrating 80 years of broadcasting to Iowans in the Waterloo and Cedar Falls area. When I was younger, I remember joining my father at the National Cattle Congress and was excited to see one of the early on-location broadcasts of the new KXEL radio station.

Iowans look to broadcasters at KXEL as trusted leaders in the community, relying on its programs each morning, noon, and night to stay up to date on local events, learn more about breaking news, and get critical information during emergencies. As an elected Representative, I particularly want to thank everyone at KXEL for their work to provide a way to communicate with constituents. I have the pleasure of speaking with Jeff Stein at least once a month, where I answer questions on any subject and update Iowans on how I am working on their behalf in Washington.

KXEL's work every single day to report the events that matter to listeners keeps Iowans safe, informed, and engaged. I look forward to my future conversations with KXEL to achieve this shared goal.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WMT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to congratulate AM 600 WMT-NewsRadio on celebrating 100 years of