

terms. To get to that point requires us to continue supporting Ukraine, to keep the momentum going. What would it say if we backed down now?

In an address before the United Nations last week, President Zelenskyy said:

Ukraine wants peace. Europe wants peace. The world wants peace. And we have seen who is the only one who wants war.

Secretary of State Blinken summed it up:

If Russia stops fighting, the war ends. If Russia stops fighting, the war ends. If Ukraine stops fighting, Ukraine ends.

I encourage the Senate to act with a united voice in support of the people of Ukraine. By providing additional funding, the battlefield gains can continue; the government in Kyiv can continue to operate; Ukrainian prosecutors can investigate more war crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice.

As Russia continues their ruthless attack on freedom and democracy, it is our duty to stand up for what we believe to be true: that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will always win in the fight against tyranny. And it is working. Ukrainian liberators have taken back cities across Ukraine, as we have seen. It is working. And unlike Russia, the morale of the Ukrainian people and the troops is strong. Their determination is strong.

We must continue to let the world know we stand with Ukraine. And as I have heard from multiple meetings with Ukrainian officials, including some of the Parliamentarians we were with yesterday, they said: Freedom must be armed.

And the United States must be there to lead that effort to ensure that freedom's flame is not extinguished in Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF BRAZIL TO ENSURE THAT THE OCTOBER 2022 ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN A FREE, FAIR, CREDIBLE, TRANSPARENT, AND PEACEFUL MANNER

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 753.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 753) urging the Government of Brazil to ensure that the October 2022 elections are conducted in a free, fair, credible, transparent, and peaceful manner.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SANDERS. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 753) was agreed to.

Mr. SANDERS. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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 September 7, 2022, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I have risen today to ask unanimous consent for S. Res. 753, expressing the sense of the Senate on the upcoming election in Brazil.

This Sunday, October 2, Brazil will hold its Presidential election. According to many polls, it appears that the two major candidates are President Jair Bolsonaro and former President Lula da Silva. If no candidate receives over 50 percent of the vote, there will be a runoff election between the top two candidates on October 30.

Madam President, over the past several months, Brazilians from all sectors of society have publicly expressed serious concern about ongoing efforts to undermine democracy in their country, including close to 1 million Brazilians who signed an open letter released on July 26, defending the democratic institutions of Brazil and the rule of law.

And there is a very good reason why these people in Brazil signed that letter. And that is that the current President, and candidate for reelection, Mr. Bolsonaro, has made some very provocative statements which suggest that he might not accept the election results if he loses. In other words, he might attempt to destroy Brazilian democracy and remain in power no matter what the people of Brazil determine in a free, fair, and democratic election.

And let me just quote some of what Mr. Bolsonaro has been saying over the last several years. Back in September 2018, before he won his election, Bolsonaro stated:

I will not accept an election result that is not my own victory.

On September 7, 2021, as reported by the Financial Times, Mr. Bolsonaro stated:

There are those who think they can take me from the presidency with the mark of a pen. Well, I say to everyone I have only three possible fates: arrest, death or victory. And tell the bastards I'll never be arrested. Only God can take me from the presidency.

According to Human Rights Watch, previously, President Bolsonaro had claimed, without providing any evidence, that the last two Presidential elections were fraudulent, including his own election, in which he claimed he got more votes than the final tally showed.

But it is not just Bolsonaro's words that should be of concern to those of us who believe in democracy. According

to a recent survey by the Federal University of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil is facing a 335-percent increase in violence directed against political leaders in 2022 relative to 2019.

Last month, a Workers' Party official was shot dead by a Bolsonaro supporter. Yesterday, Reuters reported that the Federal Police guarding former President Lula da Silva, who is the current frontrunner to unseat Bolsonaro, sent a classified memo to senior colleagues across Brazil calling for backup in order to protect Lula from possible assassination attempts.

It is clearly not the business of the United States to determine who the next President of Brazil is or to get involved in Brazil's Presidential elections in any way. That is a decision to be made solely by the people of Brazil through a free and fair election. But it is the business of the United States to make clear to the people of Brazil that our government will not recognize or support a government that comes to power through a military coup or the undermining of a democratic election.

In that regard, I have asked to receive unanimous consent today for a resolution that I introduced with Senator TIM Kaine, the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere. That resolution is also cosponsored by Senators DURBIN, LEAHY, MERKLEY, BLUMENTHAL, and WARREN.

I would also like to thank Senator MENENDEZ, the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for allowing this resolution to come to the floor.

This resolution is very simple and straightforward. It does not take sides in Brazil's elections. All it does is express the sense of the U.S. Senate that the U.S. Government should make unequivocally clear that the continuing relationship of the United States and Brazil depends upon the commitment of the Government of Brazil to democracy and human rights.

It urges the Biden administration to make clear that the United States will not support any government that comes to power in Brazil through undemocratic means and to ensure that U.S. security assistance to Brazil remains compliant with our laws related to the peaceful and democratic transition of power. This includes longstanding legal restrictions on the provision of security assistance in the event of a military coup.

In my view, it is imperative that the U.S. Senate make it clear through this resolution that we support democracy in Brazil. It would be unacceptable for the United States to recognize a government that came to power undemocratically, and it would send a horrific message to the entire world if we did that.

It is important for the people of Brazil to know we are on their side, on the side of democracy. This resolution sent that message. And I thank my colleagues for supporting it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2022

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 482, S. 3092.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3092) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “FEMA Improvement, Reform, and Efficiency Act of 2022” or the “FIRE Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term “Agency” means the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(4) the term “emergency” means an emergency declared or determined to exist by the President under section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5191);

(5) the terms “Indian tribal government”, “local government”, and “State” have the meanings given such terms in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122); and

(6) the term “major disaster” means a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

SEC. 3. REPORT ON RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit a report regarding the use of relocation assistance under sections 203, 404, and 406 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133, 5170c, 5172) for wildfire risk to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Any information on relocation projects that have been carried out due to fire risks or denied by the Agency, including the number and value of projects either carried out or denied.

(2) A discussion of the possible benefits or disadvantages of providing relocation assistance that may reduce, but not eliminate, the risk of loss due to wildfires.

(3) A discussion of how the Agency may optimize relocation assistance when entire States or geographic areas are considered subject to a fire risk.

(4) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures are more cost-effective than relocation assistance when the applicant is applying to move from a high-risk to a medium-risk or low-risk area with respect to wildfires.

(5) An analysis of the need for the Federal Government to produce wildfire maps that identify high-risk, moderate-risk, and low-risk wildfire zones.

(6) An analysis of whether other mitigation measures promote greater resilience to wildfires when compared to relocation or, if additional data is required in order to carry out such an analysis, a discussion of the additional data required.

(7) A discussion of the ability of States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to demonstrate fire risk, and whether the level of this ability impacts the ability of States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments to access relocation assistance, including an assessment of existing fire mapping products and capabilities and recommendations on redressing any gaps in the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments in demonstrating fire risk.

(8) An evaluation of—

(A) the scope of the data available to the Agency regarding historical wildfire losses;

(B) how such data is utilized in benefit-cost analysis determinations by the Agency;

(C) what additional data, if any, may be pertinent to such determinations; and

(D) what, if any, alternative methods may be relevant to the determination of cost effectiveness.

(9) A discussion of the extent to which the decision process for relocation assistance appropriately considers the change in future risks for wildfires due to a changing climate.

(10) An analysis of whether statutes and regulations regarding relocation assistance by the Agency present barriers for States, local governments, or Indian tribal governments trying to access funding to reduce wildfire risk.

(11) An analysis of—

(A) how, if at all, the Agency has modified policies and procedures to determine the eligibility of proposed relocation or mitigation projects with respect to wildfires;

(B) the cost effectiveness of such projects, in light of the increasing losses and obligations for wildfires in recent years; and

(C) the effectiveness of any modifications described in subparagraph (A).

(12) An analysis of how, if at all, recent changes in the availability of fire insurance has resulted in modifications of policy or procedure with respect to determining the cost efficacy of relocation assistance for wildfires.

(13) An analysis of how to define repetitive loss and repetitively damaged properties in the context of wildfires.

(14) A discussion of whether any legislative, regulatory, or policy changes are necessary for the Agency to better implement relocation assistance to reduce risk from wildfires.

(15) Other related issues that the Administrator determines appropriate.

SEC. 4. RED FLAG WARNINGS AND PREDISASTER ACTIONS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall—

(1) conduct a study of, develop recommendations for, and initiate a process for the use of Red Flag Warnings and similar weather alert and notification methods, including the use of emerging technologies, to establish—

(A) plans and actions, consistent with law, that can be implemented prior to a wildfire event, including pre-impact disaster declarations and surge operations, that can limit the impact, duration, or severity of the fire; and

(B) mechanisms to increase interagency collaboration to expedite the delivery of disaster assistance; and

(2) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a comprehensive report regarding the study described in paragraph (1), including any recommendations of the Administrator, and the

activities of the Administrator to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE FOR WILDFIRE DAMAGE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress regarding—

(1) the application for assistance and consistency of assistance provided by the Agency in response to wildfires; and

(2) the kinds of damage that result from wildfires.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT ON GAPS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that examines—

(1) gaps in the policies of the Agency related to wildfires, when compared to other hazards;

(2) disparities in regulations and guidance issued by the Administrator, including any oversight of the programs of the Agency, when addressing impacts of wildfires and other hazards;

(3) ways to shorten the period of time between the initiating of and the distribution of assistance, reimbursements, and grants;

(4) the effectiveness of the programs of the Agency in addressing wildfire hazards;

(5) ways to improve the ability of the Agency to assist States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against wildfire hazards;

(6) revising the application process for assistance relating to wildfires to more effectively assess uninsured and underinsured losses and serious needs; and

(7) ways to improve the disaster assistance programs of agencies other than the Agency.

SEC. 7. CRISIS COUNSELING CULTURAL COMPETENCY.

Section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5183) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) CULTURAL COMPETENCY.—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing professional counseling services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address—

“(1) cultural competency and respectful care practices; and

“(2) impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

SEC. 8. CASE MANAGEMENT CULTURAL COMPETENCY.

Section 426 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189d) is amended—

(1) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) CULTURAL COMPETENCY.—The President shall, in consultation with affected States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments and cultural experts, ensure that any individual providing case management services to victims of a major disaster as authorized under subsection (a), including those working for nonprofit partners and recovery organizations, is appropriately trained to address—

“(1) cultural competency and respectful care practices; and

“(2) impacts from major disasters in communities, and to individuals, with socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.”.

SEC. 9. STUDY AND PLAN FOR DISASTER HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—