

BROWN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 503. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately guarantee the safety and freedom of tennis star Peng Shuai; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Res. 504. A resolution commending and congratulating the Coffeyville Community College Red Ravens men's basketball team on winning the 2021 National Junior College Athletic Association Division I men's basketball championship; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 505. A resolution commemorating the success of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the past 24 Olympic Winter Games and 12 Paralympic Winter Games and supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2022 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 564, a bill to prohibit Members of Congress from purchasing or selling certain investments, and for other purposes.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to prohibit the trading of the securities of certain Communist Chinese military companies on a national securities exchange, and for other purposes.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 844

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1014

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1289, a bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reauthorize and modify the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1378

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

S. 2132

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2132, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the use of taxpayer funded union time for employees of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2607, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 2609

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2609, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equitable payment for, and preserve Medicare beneficiary access to, diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals under the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system.

S. 2627

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2627, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve assistance for veterans with travel necessary for counseling, mental health services, health care, and others services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2675

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2675, a bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2798

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2798, a bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes.

S. 2896

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2896, a bill to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to clarify whistleblower rights and protections, and for other purposes.

S. 3494

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3494, a bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3520

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3520, a bill to prohibit targeted advertising by advertising facilitators and advertisers, and for other purposes.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, and for other purposes.

S. 3554

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3554, a bill to establish an alternative use of certain Federal education funds when in-person instruction is not available.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3569. A bill to extend the program to provide liability protections for volunteer practitioners at certain health centers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3569

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Help Expand Liability Protections for Volunteers Act” or the “HELP for Volunteers Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.

Section 224(q) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 233(q)) is amended by striking paragraph (6).

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3574. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the Lawrence M. “Larry” Walsh Sr. Post Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3574

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LAWRENCE M. “LARRY” WALSH SR. POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the “Lawrence M. ‘Larry’ Walsh Sr. Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Lawrence M. ‘Larry’ Walsh Sr. Post Office”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 503—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY GUARANTEE THE SAFETY AND FREEDOM OF TENNIS STAR PENG SHUAI

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 503

Whereas, on November 2, 2021, 3-time Olympian Peng Shuai went missing after she

said in a since-deleted post on Chinese social media site Weibo that she had been sexually assaulted and forced into a sexual relationship with Zhang Gaoli, who was the senior Vice Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China from 2013 to 2018;

Whereas authorities of the People’s Republic of China imposed a media and internet blackout of discussions of Peng’s case;

Whereas, on November 14, 2021, after Peng had not been seen or heard from for 12 days, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Tennis Association Steve Simon requested a “full, fair, and transparent” investigation into Peng’s allegations;

Whereas the hashtag “#WhereIsPengShuai” trended across social media worldwide, with the exception of the People’s Republic of China where it was censored;

Whereas, on November 17, 2021, the Women’s Tennis Association received a statement purporting to be from Peng, recanting her abuse claim and saying “everything is fine”;

Whereas, in response, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Tennis Association Steve Simon said the statement “released today by Chinese state media concerning Peng Shuai only raises my concerns as to her safety and whereabouts”;

Whereas the International Olympic Committee said in a statement that it was “encouraged by assurances that she is safe”;

Whereas, on November 19 and 20, 2021, photos and videos of Peng appearing in her home, in a restaurant, and at a youth tennis event in Beijing emerged on Twitter accounts affiliated with government-run media;

Whereas, on November 19, 2021, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said the White House is “deeply concerned” over Peng’s disappearance and seeks “independent and verifiable proof” of her location and condition;

Whereas, on November 19, 2021, Liz Throssell, the spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, told reporters “. . . it would be important to have proof of her whereabouts and wellbeing, and we would urge that there be an investigation with full transparency into her allegations of sexual assault”;

Whereas, on November 21, 2021, the International Olympic Committee said in a statement that its President, Thomas Bach, had a 30-minute video call with Peng, joined by a Chinese sports official and an official of the International Olympic Committee;

Whereas the statement said that, during the call, Peng appeared to be “doing fine” and appeared “relaxed”, and said she “would like to have her privacy respected”;

Whereas the International Olympic Committee did not explain how the video call with Peng had been organized, given the difficulties other concerned parties have had reaching her;

Whereas, on November 30, 2021, in an interview with CNN, International Olympic Committee official Dick Pound defended the handling of the situation by the Government of the People’s Republic of China and said the “unanimous conclusion” by International Olympic Committee officials on the call is that Peng Shuai is “fine”;

Whereas the annual report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China for 2020 finds that gender-based violence in China remains a serious issue, and highly publicized cases of sexual assault continue to surface;

Whereas, on December 1, 2021, the Women’s Tennis Association suspended all Women’s Tennis Association tournaments in China and Hong Kong;

Whereas Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Women’s Tennis Association

Steve Simon stated, “In good conscience, I don’t see how I can ask our athletes to compete there when Peng Shuai is not allowed to communicate freely and has seemingly been pressured to contradict her allegation of sexual assault. Given the current state of affairs, I am also greatly concerned about the risks that all of our players and staff could face if we were to hold events in China in 2022.”;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China has repeatedly detained “#MeToo” activists in China and censored online and public discussion around sexual assault and harassment; and

Whereas athletes from the around the world will be competing in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing in February 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the case of Peng Shuai is directly related to broader international concerns around the freedom of speech and safety of athletes participating in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing;

(2) the failure of the International Olympic Committee to clearly and forcefully challenge the claims of the Government of the People’s Republic of China concerning Peng’s safety raise questions about the ability and willingness of the International Olympic Committee to stand up for the human rights of athletes participating in the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic games in Beijing;

(3) the Government of the People’s Republic of China would help reduce concerns about athlete safety at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing by assuring Peng’s freedom and safety and investigating her allegations in a fair and transparent manner;

(4) the Government of the People’s Republic of China should immediately take steps to—

(A) provide independent and verifiable proof of Peng’s whereabouts and that she is safe;

(B) allow Peng to engage directly with the Women’s Tennis Association and the United Nations to independently verify her safety and explain her absence from public life since making her allegation;

(C) open an independent and transparent investigation into Peng’s allegations against former senior Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli;

(D) publicly commit to hold sexual violence abusers accountable;

(E) cease all censorship of reporting and discussions of Peng’s case; and

(F) allow Peng to leave China if she so desires and prevent any retaliation against family members remaining there;

(5) by failing to clearly and forcefully challenge the Chinese Communist Party’s narrative, the International Olympic Committee has failed to uphold its own stated commitments with regard to “[r]espect for international conventions on protecting human rights”, as outlined in the Code of Ethics of the International Olympic Committee;

(6) the conduct of the International Olympic Committee runs counter to efforts by the United States Government, human rights organizations, the Women’s Tennis Association, and other international bodies and individuals to secure Peng’s safety; and

(7) in an effort to regain lost public confidence, the International Olympic Committee should publicly call on the Government of the People’s Republic of China to undertake the actions called for in paragraph (4).