

SENATE RESOLUTION 819—AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE SENATE TO PROTECT AND EXPAND THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAMS

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 819

Whereas Social Security has served as a cornerstone of economic security for millions of individuals in the United States since the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) was signed into law by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1935, when he declared, "It is, in short, a law that will take care of human needs and at the same time provide the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness";

Whereas the Social Security system of the United States ensures basic retirement security and financial stability, provides disability insurance that helps keep disabled workers and their families afloat in case of work-limiting disability, and ensures continued support of survivors;

Whereas, with the establishment of the Supplemental Security Income program, signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, Congress built upon the bedrock protections included in the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), assuring "that elderly, blind, and disabled people would no longer subsist on below-poverty incomes" and disabled and older workers, whose health prevents them from attaining the work history needed for protection under Social Security, are able to maintain basic dignity;

Whereas Social Security is an earned benefit that workers in the United States pay into with each paycheck, providing a guaranteed level of financial stability in retirement that cannot be assured with private pensions or personal assets alone;

Whereas proposals to fundamentally weaken the funding or guaranteed benefits of Social Security include—

- (1) shifting Social Security to a discretionary program;
- (2) raising the retirement age;
- (3) privatizing the Trust Funds; and
- (4) eventually ending the Social Security program altogether;

Whereas data from the Bureau of the Census indicates that—

- (1) without Social Security benefits more than 20,000,000 more individuals in the United States would live in poverty; and
- (2) approximately 1 in 4 individuals aged 65 and older in the United States have little to no income aside from Social Security; and

Whereas more than 70,000,000 seniors, people with disabilities, their dependents, and the dependents of deceased workers rely on Social Security and Supplemental Security Income to meet basic needs and live in dignity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, in recognition of the long history of the Social Security

system of the United States assuring basic financial security for millions of workers and families—

(1) celebrates the economic stability Social Security has provided for generations of families in the United States;

(2) affirms that Social Security is a solemn promise to the people of the United States that should be upheld for generations to come; and

(3) believes Social Security and Supplemental Security Income should continue to be mandatory spending, so as not to jeopardize the certainty and the financial security that the people of the United States have come to expect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 820—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION, NOW KNOWN AS THE RESERVE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 820

Whereas the Reserve Officers Association was founded on October 2, 1922, by the General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing and other veterans at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the founders of the Reserve Officers Association, who were veterans of World War I, believed that the United States was vulnerable to returning to the state of unreadiness that preceded World War I and that they needed to prevent the same level of unreadiness in future conflicts;

Whereas the Reserve Officers Association was chartered by President Harry S. Truman, one of the early members of the Reserve Officers Association, in the Act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the Reserve Officers Association of the United States", approved June 30, 1950 (64 Stat. 312, chapter 431);

Whereas the congressional charter established the Reserve Officers Association, now known as the Reserve Organization of America, "to support a military policy for the United States that will provide adequate national security";

Whereas the Reserve Organization of America is the only all ranks, all services, military service organization for the Reserve and National Guard, also known as the Reserve components, in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, the Reserve Organization of America celebrates 100 years of serving the servicemembers and veterans of the uniformed services and the Reserve components, their families, and reserve employers; and

Whereas the Reserve Organization of America was instrumental in the adoption of the Reserve Forces Bill of Rights and Vitalization Act (Public Law 90-168; 81 Stat. 521), which, among other measures, established the Selected Reserve in each service, provided adequate fiscal and equipment support for the Selected Reserve, and established assistant secretaries for reserve affairs and designated a general or flag officer responsible for reserve affairs for each armed force: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the Reserve Organization of America is a respected advocate for national security and readiness;

(2) honors the vital role the Reserve Organization of America has played throughout the organization's 100 years of service in strengthening the strategic and operational

role of the Reserve components of the United States military; and

(3) supports the Reserve Organization of America's focus on the readiness of the Reserve components and the care of those who serve in the Reserve and National Guard, their families, and veterans of the Reserve components.

SENATE RESOLUTION 821—CONDEMNING THE ARREST OF CARDINAL ZEN IN HONG KONG, AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE SENATE TO SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY, AUTONOMY, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONG KONG

Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 821

Whereas, in May 2022, Hong Kong authorities arrested Cardinal Zen, a 90-year-old bishop emeritus of Hong Kong and outspoken critic of China's ruling Communist Party, on spurious charges, accusing him and four others of violating China's national security by "colluding with foreign forces," as well as for allegedly failing to register a fund established to assist people arrested in the mass anti-government protests that began in 2019;

Whereas China imposed a so-called "national security law" in 2020, effectively crushing Hong Kong's opposition movement, overhauling its electoral system to provide Beijing with even more control, silencing free media, and crippling its once-vibrant civil society;

Whereas hundreds of protestors, activists, and former opposition lawmakers have been arrested since the "national security law" came into force;

Whereas Hong Kong is devolving into an increasingly repressive society where no one resisting government tyranny is safe, including religious leaders and communities;

Whereas, in 2022, the United Kingdom announced that two of its Supreme Court judges would no longer sit on Hong Kong's top court, as the threat to civil liberties and lack of judicial independence had made their role untenable;

Whereas Cardinal Zen and five prominent pro-democracy campaigners have pleaded not guilty in court in Hong Kong for failing to properly register a humanitarian fund they established to help people arrested in anti-government protests in 2019; and

Whereas the story of Cardinal Zen is only one of many such instances of religious persecution and infringement on democratic freedom in China and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the arrest of Cardinal Zen by the Hong Kong authorities at the behest of the Chinese Communist Party;

(2) calls for all charges to be immediately dropped against Cardinal Zen;

(3) reaffirms religious freedom as a fundamental right; and

(4) urges the Chinese and Hong Kong authorities to cease targeting Hong Kong's civil society actors and to immediately release and drop all charges against all political prisoners who have been unjustly detained and charged.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 45—PROVIDING FOR A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 6833

Mr. LEAHY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 45

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of H.R. 6833, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall amend the title so as to read: "Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.".

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 46—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1972, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "CLEAN WATER ACT"

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. CON. RES. 46

Whereas the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500; 86 Stat. 816), including the amendments made by that Act (collectively commonly known and referred to in this preamble as the "Clean Water Act"), is one of the most important environmental laws in the United States and the Nation's principal safeguard against pollution, degradation, and destruction of surface waters, including streams, rivers, wetlands, and lakes;

Whereas the Clean Water Act has made progress towards the objective of the legislation to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters" by—

- (1) significantly reducing water pollution;
- (2) substantially improving the quality of tens of thousands of waterbodies; and
- (3) dramatically reducing the rate of wetlands loss;

Whereas, despite the improvements brought about by the Clean Water Act, failure to fully achieve the intended goals of the Clean Water Act are due to—

- (1) changes to interpretation of the Clean Water Act, which has weakened protections for our waters;
- (2) lack of adequate and equitable investments in clean water infrastructure and funding to implement and enforce the Clean Water Act; and
- (3) weak and inequitable enforcement and implementation of critical provisions of the Clean Water Act; and

Whereas, as the United States embarks on the next 50 years of the Clean Water Act, Congress envisions a law that—

- (1) expands access to clean water for every community by—

(A) protecting waters with cultural, historical, spiritual, and religious significance;

(B) ensuring that rivers, streams, and other waterbodies are fishable and swimmable and serve as safe and reliable sources of recreation, drinking water, and subsistence;

(C) restoring and safeguarding waterways and wetlands that provide vital fish and wildlife habitat and protect communities from floods and droughts; and

(D) making healthy shorelines, waterfronts, and water-related recreation available and welcoming to all;

(2) prioritizes affordable clean water investments in Black, Indigenous, People of Color, low-wealth, and other communities that have been most harmed by pollution;

(3) incentivizes natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions;

(4) builds climate resiliency and mitigation of climate impacts into our water infrastructure;

(5) supports robust, transparent, and meaningful community engagement and community-led solutions and decisionmaking, including meaningfully incorporating the perspectives and solutions of Tribal communities;

(6) ensures affordable clean water services for all;

(7) protects and restores ecosystems by—

(A) eliminating harmful algal blooms, algal toxins in drinking water supplies, and "dead zones" by reducing inputs of nitrogen and phosphorus from the most significant sources;

(B) preventing destruction and degradation of remaining wetlands and restoring and protecting wetlands across the country;

(C) restoring all waters, especially the most polluted waterways and waterways in the communities most impacted by pollution;

(D) incorporating climate change science and modeling and indigenous knowledge into planning and restoration efforts;

(E) improving water quality, healthy river flows, and groundwater recharge;

(F) removing outdated infrastructure that is adversely impacting the health of waters; and

(G) supporting significant protected areas and free-flowing riverine systems, including components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, units of the National Park System, National Forests, units of the Wildlife Refuge System, and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(8) promotes an inclusive, transparent, and equitable approach to policy development, based on best available science, by—

(A) proactively protecting human health and the environment from discharges of harmful pollutants, including new, emerging, and toxic contaminants;

(B) basing decisions on the most credible climate projections;

(C) accepting community-sourced and peer-reviewed science as a source of data for decisionmaking related to the Clean Water Act;

(D) ensuring that all decisions comply with the full suite of applicable laws;

(E) ensuring that States are consistent and timely in implementation of the Clean Water Act; and

(F) increasing the reach and accuracy of water quality monitoring and assessment by providing funding to States, agencies, and other organizations conducting such activities; and

(9) holds polluters accountable by including stronger enforcement measures, including—

(A) prioritizing prosecutions of violations of the Clean Water Act that have affected Black, Indigenous, People of Color, low-wealth, and other communities that have been most harmed by pollution;

(B) ensuring that Federal and State agencies carefully, clearly, and equitably apply the requirements of the Clean Water Act;

(C) providing the resources needed to ensure that Federal and State agencies have the capacity to effectively implement and enforce the Clean Water Act; and

(D) protecting our cleanest and most outstanding waters through classification of Outstanding National Resources Waters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (Public Law 92-500; 86 Stat. 816), including the amendments made by that Act (collectively commonly known and referred to in this resolution as the "Clean Water Act");

(2) recognizes the historic achievements in improving water quality that have been made during the 50 years of implementation of the Clean Water Act; and

(3) recognizes and seeks to address the shortcomings of the Clean Water Act in restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters, including by—

(A) expanding access to clean water for every community;

(B) recognizing that a robust Clean Water Act is critical for the protection of human and environmental health, for the promotion of healthy and robust economies, and for maintaining a healthy quality of life;

(C) increasing clean water infrastructure investments in communities throughout the Nation and targeting increased and affordable investments in communities most at risk of continued pollution;

(D) addressing climate resiliency and mitigation of climate impacts on clean water infrastructure;

(E) promoting an inclusive, transparent, and equitable approach to Clean Water Act policy development, based on the best available science;

(F) holding polluters accountable; and

(G) ensuring the protection and restoration of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and natural ecosystems.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce, along with the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN; the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL; the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY; the Senator from Oregon, Mr. MERKLEY; the Senator from California, Mr. PADILLA; and the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, a resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act, which was signed into law on October 18, 1972, is one of the most important environmental laws in the United States and our Nation's principal safeguard against pollution and the degradation of our Nation's water bodies. Five decades of Clean Water Act implementation has improved our Nation's waterways, wetlands, and water infrastructure, all while protecting public health and aquatic ecosystems. This resolution recognizes the historic achievements in improving water quality that have been made over the past 50 years.

Perhaps the most memorable example of improved water quality is Ohio's Cuyahoga River. In 1969, the river was so polluted that it actually caught fire. It is a memory I will never forget. Now, because of the Clean Water Act, the Cuyahoga River has been cleaned up and is home to over 60 species of fish.

Americans now have a law that seeks to protect them from industrial pollution in our rivers and streams or the