

work, increasing both their own incomes and their contributions to the economy. Families also reported experiencing fewer flu and cold symptoms and emergency room visits, decreasing costly medical expenses.

The Weatherization Assistance Program also helps boost our economy. The program supports over 8,500 jobs for energy experts and contractors, while increasing our national economic output by \$1.2 billion.

The program is a win-win for all involved. That is why, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have led my colleagues in supporting strong funding for it every year. And that is why I am introducing this bill—to ensure it continues to work for years to come.

This bill will help expand the program to many more low-income households that are currently unable to receive weatherization services because their homes need minor structural repairs before then can be weatherized. The bill will authorize a Weatherization Readiness Fund to repair structural issues and prepare homes for weatherization assistance, increasing the number of homes the program is able to serve.

At the same time, it will raise the amount of funding allowed to be spent on each home to keep up with current labor and material costs, and it will raise the cap on the amount of funding allowed to be spent on renewable energy upgrades in each home. These provisions are essential updates to a program that has helped so many families over the past few decades.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this commonsense legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 126—RECOGNIZING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MEKONG RIVER TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE ROLE OF THE MEKONG-UNITED STATES PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORTING THE PROSPERITY OF THE REGION

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 126

Whereas the Mekong River supports the livelihoods of approximately 60,000,000 people, making it the most important river in Southeast Asia and one of the most important rivers in the world;

Whereas the Mekong-United States Partnership, comprising the United States, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the predecessor of that partnership, the Lower Mekong Initiative, have contributed greatly to the economic, social, and human resources development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin and the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas the United States has long-standing diplomatic relations with the coun-

tries in the Mekong River Basin, including a nearly 200-year-old relationship with treaty ally Thailand;

Whereas the development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin is critical for the unity, economic strength, and institutional development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the Mekong River is increasingly imperiled by the threats from worsening and extreme changes in the environment, coupled with the construction of upstream dams that have altered the natural flow of the river and vital ecological processes supported by natural flow;

Whereas, since 2019, the flow of water in the Mekong River during the wet season has been abnormally low;

Whereas the Nuozhadu and Xiaowan Dams in China account for more than 50 percent of the water storage of all dams in the Mekong River Basin and can restrict up to 10 percent of the total wet season flow of the Mekong River, exacerbating drought conditions downstream;

Whereas the Mekong River Commission is an integral partner in ensuring the long-term health of the Mekong River;

Whereas the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy can be a leader in supporting river development and protection;

Whereas the Mekong Dam Monitor, funded partly by the Mekong-United States Partnership, has provided essential data and information about the impacts of hydropower dams along the Mekong River to the people and governments of the Mekong River Basin to allow them to prepare for irregular water flows and mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of those flows;

Whereas the Mekong River has become a hub for criminal elements to traffic in drugs, people, and wildlife, undermining the rule of law in the countries in the Mekong River Basin and impacting the world through the proliferation of illegal drugs and fauna that can cause spillover of zoonotic diseases;

Whereas the international community has committed to support the development of countries along the Mekong River through internationally recognized development goals;

Whereas the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the countries in the Mekong River Basin, the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank, is committed to supporting the shared principles that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific for decades;

Whereas close coordination and collaboration with civil society groups throughout the Mekong River Basin is essential to the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas, among the countries in the Mekong River Basin, there has been a negative trend toward the detention and detainment of civil society actors and journalists and an increase in violations of human rights;

Whereas the February 1, 2021, military coup in Burma was illegal and unjustified and has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, more than 1,000,000 people displaced, and tens of thousands of people in detention, and continued violence threatens the stability of the entire region, especially those countries along the borders of Burma; and

Whereas diaspora communities from countries in the Mekong River Basin are a vital part of the United States and help build thriving people-to-people ties between those countries and the United States that lead to

strong commercial, civil society, and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses sincere concern over the environmental, economic, and humanitarian threats to the Mekong River and the communities of the Mekong River and continued support to counter those threats; and

(2) declares it is the policy of the United States Government to—

(A) through the Mekong-United States Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong, promote the economic and environmental well-being of the people of Mainland Southeast Asia in the 5 countries through which the Mekong River flows, namely, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam;

(B) support a whole-of-government approach in providing and coordinating Federal aid and assistance throughout the Mekong River Basin under the Mekong-United States Partnership, including programmatic support provided by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal agencies;

(C) contribute to the development of quality infrastructure, the development of national electricity markets, cross-border energy trade, the facilitation of cross-border transport, clean energy acceleration and deployment, the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, agriculture, transportation, the facilitation of trade and investment, strengthened subregional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the digital economy in the Mekong River Basin;

(D) promote engagement and buy-in of the United States private sector to support inclusive economic growth, resilience, global health, education, and long-term development in the region;

(E) leverage the expertise of the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and other partners in high-quality infrastructure to support the economic development needs of the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(F) support the development of quality infrastructure, including through projects financed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation, as appropriate, in the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(G) encourage all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to view the environmental, humanitarian, and economic threats to the Mekong River as a danger to the entire region;

(H) promote effective water use policies, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection, including—

(i) through support for a technically sound, well-coordinated, and consensus-based approach to managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin;

(ii) through support for environmental conservation, protection, and resilience in the Mekong subregion; and

(iii) by enhancing the capacity of countries in the Mekong River Basin in the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, for sustainable food security;

(I) continue the important work that provides vital data and monitoring to the people and governments of the Mekong River;

(J) support the development of the capacity of the region to respond to a variety of threats, including countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and persons, and criminal activity associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to improve health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics,

cybersecurity, and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(K) promote the development of human capital through education, medical and public health partnerships, vocational training, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges;

(L) work together with countries in the Mekong River Basin to combat pollution, over fishing, natural resource degradation, and the effects that changes in the global climate systems are having on the Mekong River, and the communities that depend on the river, and to support the abilities of such communities to adapt and build resilience capacities of those countries;

(M) encourage all countries in the Mekong River Basin to provide timely early warning for natural and unnatural operations of the river;

(N) support freedom of expression in the countries in the Mekong River Basin through promoting independent journalism and the freedom to access information;

(O) continue to call for the cessation of violence in Burma and support the return of Burma to a path of inclusive democracy, so that it can fully contribute to regional development;

(P) prioritize the strengthening of people-to-people ties through United States exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program, the Peace Corps, the International Visitors Leadership Program, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Program, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam; and

(Q) recognize that strong democratic institutions, the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms, independent civil society, and free and fair elections are central to implementing the shared vision of a Mekong River region, and an Indo-Pacific region, that is free, open, secure, and prosperous.

SENATE RESOLUTION 127—CONDEMNING THE HORRIFIC SCHOOL SHOOTING AT THE COVENANT SCHOOL IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, AS A HATE CRIME, AND RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES

Mr. HAWLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 127

Whereas, on March 27, 2023, a deranged individual tragically and violently opened fire at The Covenant School, a religious institution in Nashville, Tennessee, that is part of the Covenant Presbyterian Church;

Whereas this heinous act resulted in the death of 3 innocent students, namely Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs, and William Kinney;

Whereas 3 dedicated school employees, Cynthia Peak, Katherine Koonce, and Michael Hill, also tragically lost their lives in the line of duty;

Whereas Federal law explicitly prohibits violence against people of the United States on the basis of religious affiliation or belief;

Whereas this reprehensible act of violence targeted a Christian institution, its students, and its employees;

Whereas the Senate acknowledges and honors the bravery and sacrifice of the first responders, law enforcement officers, and medical personnel who responded to this tragic event;

Whereas the Senate extends its deepest condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims and the entire community of The Covenant School; and

Whereas the Senate recognizes that the United States must continue to work to prevent hate crimes, protect religious liberties, and ensure the safety and security of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns the horrific act of violence that occurred at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 27, 2023, and recognizes it as a hate crime targeting Christians;

(2) honors the memory of the victims, Evelyn Dieckhaus, Hallie Scruggs, William Kinney, Cynthia Peak, Katherine Koonce, and Michael Hill, and extends its heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and the entire community of The Covenant School;

(3) expresses gratitude and appreciation for the bravery and selflessness displayed by the first responders, law enforcement officers, and medical personnel who responded to the tragic event;

(4) calls on all people of the United States—

(A) to unite in the face of such hatred and violence; and

(B) to stand in solidarity with those who have been affected by this tragedy;

(5) condemns hateful rhetoric that leads to violence; and

(6) reaffirms its commitment to uphold the values of tolerance, religious freedom, and justice for all, as enshrined in the Constitution of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 128—CONDEMNING THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S KIDNAPPING OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 128

Whereas on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation invaded the sovereign State of Ukraine in violation of international law;

Whereas Russian troops have since committed horrendous atrocities and human rights violations;

Whereas as of March 2023, research indicates that agents of the Government of the Russian Federation have kidnapped and removed at least 6,000 innocent children from their homes in Ukraine, and have likely kidnapped tens of thousands more Ukrainian children;

Whereas United States officials have indicated that more than 1,800 children were taken from Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine to Russia during July 2022;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues to provide false information about these children to parents and international nongovernmental organizations and human rights observers, including claiming the children have no parents or family;

Whereas Russian authorities have loosened adoption laws to allow Russian families to more easily take custody of kidnapped Ukrainian children;

Whereas Russian authorities provide additional funds to Russian families housing kidnapped Ukrainian children and force kidnapped Ukrainian children to become Russian citizens;

Whereas this practice is in direct contradiction to any standard of reasonableness and civility;

Whereas this practice is associated with dictators who pose a threat to humanity, world peace, and human rights;

Whereas the International Criminal Court—

(1) has opened war crimes cases over the abductions and re-education of Ukrainian children; and

(2) has issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin; and

Whereas children worldwide should be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty, and exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the Russian Federation's abduction of innocent children from their families in Ukraine and the relocation of such children to reeducation camps, where they are indoctrinated, abused, and exploited;

(2) rebukes every other nation that provides aid and support to the Russian Federation's kidnapping enterprise;

(3) condemns forced adoptions of Ukrainian children by Russian citizens contrary to international intercountry adoption norms and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague, October 25, 1980 (TIAS 11670); and

(4) implores the Russian Federation to work with international human rights and children welfare organizations to ensure the return of Ukrainian children to their home country at the earliest available opportunity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 129—DESIGNATING MARCH 2023 AS "NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH"

Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 129

Whereas National Women's History Month recognizes and spreads awareness of the importance of women in the history of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the history of the United States, whether in the home, in the workplace, in schools, in the courts, or during wartime, women have fought for themselves, their families, and all people of the United States;

Whereas, even from the early days of the history of the United States, Abigail Adams urged her husband to "Remember the Ladies" when representatives met for the Continental Congress in 1776;