

(2) location, entry, and patent under mining law; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1327. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require that a consumer authorize the release of certain information; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I am joined by Senator VAN HOLLEN in introducing the Consumer Credit Control Act, which gives consumers greater control over when and how their consumer reports are shared by consumer reporting agencies.

Our current consumer reporting system is backwards. Consumer reporting agencies collect massive amounts of personal information on consumers, often without their knowledge, in order to compile consumer reports. These reports are then shared with financial institutions and others, often without consent.

Following Equifax's failure several years ago to secure valuable personally identifiable information it collected on approximately 147 million Americans, it remains clear that this system needs to change. Indeed, the National Consumer Law Center's Chi Chi Wu stated in testimony before the House Financial Services Committee that the Equifax breach "means half of the US population and nearly three-quarters of the consumers with active credit reports are now at risk of identity theft due to one of the worst—if not the worst—breaches of consumer data in American history. These Americans are at risk of having false new credit accounts, phony tax returns, and even spurious medical bills incurred in their good names." To make matters worse, the risks of identity fraud may only increase with time. As Ed Mierzwinski, U.S. PIRG's Federal Consumer Program Director, explains "unlike credit card numbers, your Social Security Number and Date of Birth don't change and may even grow more valuable over time, like gold in a bank vault. Much worse, they are the keys to 'new account identity theft.'"

The Consumer Credit Control Act aims to address these concerns and fix the current upside down system. Our legislation, at no cost to the consumer, seeks to give Americans greater control over when and how their consumer reports are released when applying for new credit, a loan, or insurance. It also requires consumer reporting agencies to verify a consumer's identity and secure the consumer's permission before releasing consumer reports in instances that are particularly susceptible to identity theft and fraud. Additionally, our legislation requires every consumer reporting agency to take appropriate steps to prevent unauthorized access to the consumer reports and personal information they maintain.

These changes are intended to make it tougher for criminals to open new

fraudulent credit or insurance accounts in other people's names. They will also dramatically cut down on so-called "trigger leads," where the credit reporting bureaus sell the fact that a consumer is shopping for a mortgage to other lenders. That causes prospective homebuyers to get inundated with hundreds of calls offering alternative mortgages. The credit bureaus say that these "trigger leads" help consumers by making sure they have access to the most attractive financing, but in reality they are a nuisance and add unnecessary stress to the already stressful process of buying a home.

I urge our colleagues to cosponsor the Consumer Credit Control Act, and I thank Senator VAN HOLLEN, the National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients, U.S. PIRG, the Center for Digital Democracy, Consumer Action, the Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Reports, the National Association of Consumer Advocates, and Public Citizen for their support.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 174—CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI AND THE BRUTAL KILLING OF ESWATINI ACTIVIST THULANI MASEKO ON JANUARY 21, 2023

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

S. RES. 174

Whereas Eswatini, one of the world's last absolute monarchies, is ruled by King Mswati III, who has been in power for more than 36 years, and exercises ultimate authority over all branches of the national government and effectively controls local and national governance through his influence over traditional chiefs and the selection of House of Assembly candidates and control over the national electoral system;

Whereas human rights and democracy advocates in Eswatini have faced repression and persecution, including arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture, and have faced on political gatherings and restrictions on their civil liberties, including with respect to expression, assembly, and freedom of the press;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has used laws such as the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008, and the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act of 1938, to suppress free speech and stifle criticism of the monarch;

Whereas, from June to October 2021, the country witnessed nationwide demonstrations against security sector abuses, with protests evolving into demands for democratic reforms;

Whereas King Mswati III's government employed excessive force and arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as internet shutdowns, to repress pro-democracy protests and related advocacy activities, restrict the activities of human rights advocates, and impose blanket bans on protests demanding democracy and respect for internationally-recognized human rights;

Whereas official sources note security forces in Eswatini responded with violence against protestors, reportedly killing more than 46 people, injuring more than 245, and detaining or arresting hundreds of others, although the international community suggests the true death toll is higher;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini detained two members of parliament on spurious charges for more than 18 months under the Suppression of Terrorism Act, and charged them with terrorism and murder for allegedly encouraging pro-democracy protests and calling for a democratically elected prime minister and other reforms;

Whereas regional human rights organizations continue to receive reports of lawyers and judges being harassed, threatened, and intimidated for their actual, alleged, or suspected support of the ongoing pro-democracy movement, in contravention of their constitutional rights;

Whereas, following a visit to Eswatini by Southern African Development Community (SADC) delegates in November 2021, King Mswati III agreed to provide for a national dialogue to address the civil unrest structured in the format of a sibaya, a royally-convened and -controlled traditional civic consultative forum, but since then has ignored widespread demands of the pleas of citizens, opposition politicians, civil society, and the regional and international community for a genuine consultative forum inclusive of diverse political views, while continuing the government's crackdown on dissenting voices;

Whereas, in October 2021, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the Eswatini authorities to ensure that the people of Eswatini are able to exercise their civil and political rights peacefully;

Whereas reports indicate that the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has contracted with international security companies to train government security forces to respond to violence in the country, resulting in increased intimidation against dissenting voices;

Whereas Thulani Maseko, a prominent human rights lawyer, Chairman of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum, an organization comprised of various civil society groups calling for constitutional reforms in Eswatini, and a champion of social justice, routinely criticized King Mswati III for undermining judicial independence and called for a more democratic legal system in Eswatini;

Whereas, in 2014, Thulani Maseko and fellow human rights advocate Bheki Makhubu were charged and sentenced to two years in prison for writing and publishing an article that criticized the country's Chief Justice and drew attention to the lack of independence of Eswatini's judicial system;

Whereas, on June 30, 2015, Thulani Maseko and Bheki Makhubu were acquitted and released after Eswatini's supreme court found that they had been wrongly convicted;

Whereas Thulani Maseko made an immense contribution to the advancement of justice and human rights in Eswatini and, more broadly, throughout southern Africa, including through fact-finding missions, including to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi, where he reported on the deterioration of civic space;

Whereas, on January 21, 2023, Thulani Maseko was shot and killed by an unknown gunman at his home in Luyengo, Mbabane, in front of his wife and children;

Whereas the assassination of Thulani Maseko occurred amid a rise in Swazi government intimidation of King Mswati III's critics, many of whom have called for political reforms in Eswatini, and an overall escalation of violence in the country, including

the killings of members of the security forces and attacks on traditional leaders, as well as state security force element attacks on and legal harassment of pro-democracy advocates;

Whereas the United States Department of State, multilateral organizations such as the SADC, the African Union, and the European Union, as well as the human rights community, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have called for a full and transparent investigation into Mr. Maseko's murder;

Whereas, on January 25, 2023, the Department of State delivered a statement underscoring United States condemnation and broader global condemnation of Mr. Maseko's murder, the need for an impartial and transparent investigation and accountability for those responsible for his killing, nonviolence on all sides, and tangible movement on a credible, inclusive national dialogue;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has failed to announce progress on an independent investigation to identify and bring to justice those responsible for Thulani Maseko's murder; and

Whereas a failure to investigate the unlawful killing of Thulani Maseko and to bring the perpetrators to justice would be a violation of Eswatini's obligations as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the brutal murder of Thulani Maseko and the worsening cycle of political violence and instability in Eswatini;

(2) expresses deep concern about reports of continued human rights violations against the people of Eswatini, and the harassment of advocates for human rights and democratic practice and constitutionalism in Eswatini;

(3) calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini to—

(A) undertake a full, transparent, and impartial criminal investigation into the assassination of Thulani Maseko and hold perpetrators accountable;

(B) cease surveilling and intimidating human rights activists fighting to protect fundamental freedoms;

(C) uphold internationally recognized human rights, including the rights of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, as well as corresponding rights in the Eswatini constitution;

(D) expeditiously initiate pre-dialogue preparations and announce a firm date by which a credible, inclusive dialogue on constitutional and political reform will begin starting prior to scheduled September 2023 elections;

(E) engage in good faith in a credible, inclusive national dialogue to address longstanding demands for democratic reforms; and

(F) fully staff and empower a full complement of Commission of Human Rights and Public Accountability (CHRPA) human rights investigation staff, install an appointed Commissioner, make CHRPA fully independent from the Ministry of Justice and other government interference in line with commitments to treaty conventions and the Paris Principle, and take action to address CHRPA's recommendations;

(4) calls on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct an independent investigation into Mr. Maseko's assassination and human rights violations in Eswatini;

(5) encourages the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to—

(A) maintain and expand support for journalists, human rights advocates, and the rule of law and media freedoms in Eswatini; and

(B) encourage the SADC to take action to address the political and human rights crisis in Eswatini, including by working to convene a credible consultative forum inclusive of diverse political views and civil society to address issues related to political space and democratic reform; and

(6) encourages the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to consider targeted sanctions against any individuals and entities committing violations of internationally-recognized human rights in Eswatini.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 175—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON OCTOBER 1, 1953

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 175

Whereas, on October 1, 1953, the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 U.S.T. 2368) was signed in Washington, D.C., to which the Senate provided its advice and consent to ratification on January 26, 1954;

Whereas the shared commitment to recognize an armed attack on either of the Parties as dangerous to the peace and security of the other and to "act to meet the common danger in accordance with [each party's] constitutional processes" remains in place today;

Whereas the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations on May 22, 1882, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation, and the United States reestablished its diplomatic relationship with the "Republic of Korea" on March 25, 1949;

Whereas, in 2023, the United States-Republic of Korea alliance marks 70 years since the cessation of hostilities in the Korean War and the signing of the Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which remains in place today and neither formally ended the Korean War nor constituted a permanent settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is the linchpin of peace, security, and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific region and is essential to confronting the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK);

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is rooted in mutual trust, shared sacrifice, common values, economic interests, and generations of people-to-people ties that provide a foundation for one of the strongest, most interoperable, and enduring bilateral alliances in the world;

Whereas the United States assures its ironclad security commitment to the Republic of Korea, including the United States extended deterrent underpinned by the full range of United States capabilities, including nuclear capabilities;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance was forged in shared sacrifice, with 1,789,000 United States soldiers, sailors,

airmen, and Marines serving during the Korean War, of whom 36,574 paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives in defense of the Republic of Korea, including 7,174 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) soldiers, and the over 7,500 members of the United States Armed Forces that remain classified by the Department of Defense as missing in action;

Whereas casualties of the Republic of Korea were more than 217,000 soldiers killed, more than 291,000 wounded, and over 1,000,000 civilians killed or missing;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has since its founding become a thriving democracy with a vibrant press and commitment to the rule of law and a free market economy;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea Security Consultative Meeting met on November 3, 2022, in Washington, D.C. and "shared their common understanding that the U.S.-ROK Alliance is based on the same principles and shared values including: mutual trust, freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law";

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea are committed to pursuing closely coordinated diplomatic efforts through a shared strategy to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the Republic of Korea's 2022 Strategy for a Free, Peaceful, and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region emphasizes its desire to be a global pivotal state that commits "to working with other key nations both within and beyond the region to foster a free and peaceful region . . . while strengthening the rules-based international order";

Whereas President Yoon Suk Yeol took the courageous and bold step of announcing that the Government of the Republic of Korea would compensate Korean victims of Japanese wartime labor in order to facilitate the resolution of an issue that has hampered cooperation with Japan;

Whereas a robust and effective trilateral relationship between and among the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan is critical for joint security and interests in defending freedom and democracy, upholding human rights, promoting peace, security, and the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific and across the globe, championing women's empowerment, and combating and adapting to complex environmental challenges;

Whereas the American and Korean people share deeply rooted values of defending freedom, championing economic development, upholding human rights, and respecting the rule of law;

Whereas the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan have held a series of trilateral meetings, including a trilateral leaders' summit on November 13, 2022, a Foreign Ministers' meeting on September 23, 2022, and a vice ministerial meeting on February 13, 2023, at which the three countries committed to continuing trilateral exercises on ballistic missile defense and anti-submarine warfare, and further determined to explore new areas of security cooperation, including sharing DPRK missile warning data in real time;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is the United States' seventh largest goods trading partner with \$162,900,000,000 in total (two-way) goods trade and \$31,500,000,000 in total services trade for a combined \$194,400,000,000 in 2021, and is one of the United States top sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which totaled \$110,600,000,000 in 2021 and, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, South Korea multinational enterprises (MNEs) in the United States employed almost 84,000 employees in 2020;