

**SENATE RESOLUTION 22—CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY JACKRABBITS ON WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION TITLE**

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 22**

Whereas, on January 8, 2023, the South Dakota State University (referred to in this preamble as “SDSU”) Jackrabbits defeated the North Dakota State University Bison by a score of 45 to 21 in the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division I Football Championship Subdivision (referred to in this preamble as the “FCS”) Championship game in Frisco, Texas;

Whereas this is the first national championship for the SDSU Jackrabbits football program and first team national championship in the NCAA Division I era for SDSU athletics;

Whereas the SDSU Jackrabbits finished the 2022-2023 season with an overall record of 14 wins and 1 loss, with 8 wins and 0 losses in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, including earning a number 1 seed in the FCS playoffs;

Whereas the SDSU Jackrabbits have qualified for the FCS playoffs the past 11 seasons;

Whereas the 2022-2023 SDSU Jackrabbits—

(1) averaged 34.2 points and 384.6 yards per game; and

(2) allowed only 15.8 points and 273.9 yards per game on average;

Whereas the SDSU head coach, John Stiegelmeier, was awarded the 2022 American Football Coaches Association National Coach of the Year Award for the FCS and the Stats Perform 2022 Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year Award;

Whereas Coach Stiegelmeier, a native of Selby, South Dakota, announced his retirement after 26 seasons as head coach of the SDSU Jackrabbits, finishing his head coaching career at SDSU, his alma mater, with a record of 199 wins and 112 losses; and

Whereas SDSU President Barry Dunn and Athletic Director Justin Sell have cultivated a standard of excellence within SDSU athletics and guided the athletic programs at SDSU to national prominence: Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and honors the South Dakota State University football team on a successful season and for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title;

(2) recognizes the hard work, dedication, determination, and commitment of the South Dakota State University football players, coaches, and staff;

(3) commends the Head Coach of the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits football team, John Stiegelmeier, for his dedication and service to the South Dakota State University football program; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of South Dakota State University, Barry Dunn;

(B) the Athletic Director of South Dakota State University, Justin Sell; and

(C) the Head Coach of the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits football team, John Stiegelmeier.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 23—DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA IMMEDIATELY RELEASE MARK SWIDAN**

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

**S. RES. 23**

Whereas Mark Swidan is being unjustly and arbitrarily detained by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China (CPC), according to the United States Government and the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention;

Whereas Mark Swidan is a United States citizen from Luling, Texas, and is a resident of Houston, Texas;

Whereas, on November 13, 2012, Mark Swidan was abducted by officers of the Public Security Bureau while on a business trip to the People's Republic of China, and on December 21, 2012, Swidan was formally arrested following an indictment issued by the Public Prosecutions Office of the People's Procuratorate of Jiangmen City alleging that Swidan was part of a criminal conspiracy with 11 other individuals to manufacture and traffic drugs;

Whereas, on April 30, 2019, a Chinese court sentenced Swidan to death, which he has appealed;

Whereas security officials in the People's Republic of China repeatedly attempted to coerce Swidan into signing a confession, but Swidan refused to sign a confession and pleaded not guilty;

Whereas, according to evidence evaluated by the UNHRC Working Group on Arbitrary Detention—

(1) no drugs were found on Swidan or in his hotel room;

(2) the prosecution did not produce any forensic evidence of the alleged offenses;

(3) records in Swidan's passport indicate he was not in the People's Republic of China during the time of the offenses; and

(4) the 11 other individuals indicted in relation to the alleged conspiracy could not identify Swidan;

Whereas officials of the People's Republic of China and the CPC have maliciously and systematically denied Swidan's mother Katherine Swidan, a resident of Texas, and other members of his family the ability to contact him;

Whereas officials of the People's Republic of China and the CPC have denied and continue to deny United States diplomats full consular access to Swidan, in violation of international norms;

Whereas Swidan's detention has been and continues to be inhumane, and includes exposure to extreme weather conditions, sleep deprivation, and physical and psychological abuse;

Whereas Swidan's health has precipitously deteriorated and security officials in People's Republic of China continue to deny independent or competent medical care and evaluation to Swidan;

Whereas humanitarian organizations of the United States, including the Dui Hua Foundation, which helped put this case before the Working Group, and the Global Liberty Alliance, which has asked the Sister Cities programs to sever relationships with Jiangmen until Swidan is released, have sought to highlight the injustice and conditions of Swidan's detention;

Whereas the UNHRC Working Group on Arbitrary Detention—

(1) found that Swidan is being held in violation of customary international law;

(2) emphasized the nonconformity by the People's Republic of China with international norms, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and

(3) stressed that “the appropriate remedy would be to release Mr. Swidan immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations, in accordance with international law”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) demands that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan;

(2) condemns the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China for refusing to provide Swidan with—

(A) regular communication with his family;

(B) access to United States diplomats; and

(C) independent and competent medical care and evaluation; and

(3) calls on the United States Government to deepen and prioritize efforts to secure the release of Swidan, including by—

(A) urging Chinese counterparts at every level of engagement to release Swidan, and

(B) using the voice and vote of United States diplomats in international forums to highlight Swidan's case.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 24—SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF “NATIONAL GIRLS & WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY” ON FEBRUARY 1, 2023, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS**

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

**S. RES. 24**

Whereas “National Girls & Women in Sports Day” began in 1987 as a day to recognize and acknowledge the success and progress of girls and women in sports;

Whereas athletic participation helps develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills, and opportunities for athletic participation should be available to all individuals;

Whereas, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting equality, it is imperative to eliminate the existing disparities between male and female youth athletic programs;

Whereas the share of athletic participation opportunities of high school girls has increased more than sixfold since the enactment of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as “title IX”), but high school girls still experience—

(1) a lower share of athletic participation opportunities than high school boys; and

(2) a lower level of athletic participation opportunities than high school boys enjoyed over 50 years ago;

Whereas 60 percent of high school girls participate in a sport;

Whereas female participation in college sports has nearly tripled since the enactment of title IX, but female college athletes

still comprise only 44 percent of the total collegiate athlete population, 30 percent of whom are white women and only 14 percent of whom are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (referred to in this preamble as “BIPOC”) women;

Whereas, in 1971, women coached 90 percent of collegiate women's teams, but as of 2023, women coach only 41 percent of all National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as “NCAA”) women's teams and BIPOC women represent only 7 percent of head coaches;

Whereas there is a need to restore women to those positions to ensure fair representation and provide role models for young female athletes;

Whereas, for too long, the many achievements of women in sports have not received fair recognition;

Whereas the long history of women in sports in the United States—

(1) features many contributions made by female athletes that have enriched the national life of the United States; and

(2) includes inspiring figures, such as Gertrude Ederle, Wilma Rudolph, Althea Gibson, Mildred Ella “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias, Mary Lou Retton, and Patty Berg, who overcame difficult obstacles in their own lives—

(A) to advance participation by women in sports; and

(B) to set positive examples for the generations of female athletes who continue to inspire people in the United States today;

Whereas the United States must do all it can to break down the barriers of discrimination, inequality, and injustice in sports;

Whereas girls and young women in minority communities are doubly disadvantaged because—

(1) schools in minority communities have fewer athletic opportunities than schools in predominately White communities; and

(2) the limited resources for athletic opportunities in minority communities exacerbates the existing gender inequity between girls and boys;

Whereas the United States Women's National Soccer Team has led the fight domestically and internationally for equal treatment and compensation for female athletes;

Whereas the 4-time World Cup champion United States Women's National Soccer Team will compete to win a historic third World Cup title in a row at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup;

Whereas, with the recent enactment of laws such as the Equal Pay for Team USA Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-340), Congress has taken steps—

(1) to ensure all athletes representing the United States in global competition receive equal pay and benefits regardless of gender; and

(2) to represent to the world, and especially young girls, that everyone deserves equal pay and benefits; and

Whereas, with increased participation by women and girls in sports, it is more important than ever to continue protecting title IX and uphold the mandate of the law of equitable and fair treatment and more general principles of gender equity throughout the sport system: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports—

(1) observing “National Girls & Women in Sports Day” on February 1, 2023, to recognize—

(A) all women athletes who represent schools, universities, and the United States in their athletic pursuits; and

(B) the vital role that the people of the United States have in empowering girls and women in sports;

(2) marking the observation of National Girls & Women in Sports Day with appro-

priate programs and activities, including legislative efforts—

(A) to build on the success of the Equal Pay for Team USA Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-340) and ensure equal pay for all female athletes; and

(B) to protect and uphold title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) so that future generations of athletes will not have to experience the inequitable and unfair treatment that many athletes have had to endure, and continue to endure, today; and

(3) all ongoing efforts—

(A) to promote gender equity in sports, including equal pay and equal access to athletic opportunities for girls and women; and

(B) to support the commitment of the United States to expanding athletic participation for all girls and future generations of women athletes.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, today I rise to introduce a resolution recognizing February 1, 2023, as National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Nearly 4 million girls and women across this country participate in high school and college athletics. Participation in sports has been shown to provide lifelong benefits to their physical and mental health. Athletic participation helps develop self-discipline, initiative, and confidence. When female athletes are supported on the field, they are empowered to become leaders off of it.

For far too long, the many achievements of women in sports have not received fair recognition. Female athletes, coaches, and trainers are consistently paid less than their male counterparts, subjected to subpar working conditions, and receive substantially less investment and promotional support for their athletic programs. This country must do all it can to break down the barriers of discrimination, inequality, and injustice in sports.

Today's resolution celebrates the tremendous accomplishments of female athletes across the United States, supports the growth of female sports, and encourages the next generation of athletes to follow their dreams.

I thank Senator CAPITO for leading this important bipartisan resolution with me, and for all of our supporters in the Senate.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 3—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHT THAT IS ESSENTIAL TO A FREE SOCIETY AND PROTECTED FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND RECOGNIZING THE 237TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE VIRGINIA STATUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RISCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr.

CRUZ, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 3

Whereas the democracy of the United States is rooted in the fundamental truth that all people are created equal, endowed by the Creator with certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

Whereas the freedom of conscience was highly valued by—

(1) individuals seeking religious freedom who settled in the colonies in the United States;

(2) the founders of the United States; and

(3) Thomas Jefferson, who wrote in a letter to the Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church at New London, Connecticut, dated February 4, 1809, that “[n]o provision in our Constitution ought to be dearer to man than that which protects the rights of conscience against the enterprizes of the civil authority”;

Whereas the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was—

(1) drafted by Thomas Jefferson, who considered the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom to be one of his greatest achievements;

(2) enacted on January 16, 1786; and

(3) the forerunner to the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas section 2(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) states that—

(1) “[t]he right to freedom of religion undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States”; and

(2) religious freedom was established by the founders of the United States “in law, as a fundamental right and as a pillar of our Nation”;

Whereas the role of religion in society and public life in the United States has a long and robust tradition;

Whereas individuals who have studied the democracy of the United States from an international perspective, such as Alexis de Tocqueville, have noted that religion plays a central role in preserving the Government of the United States because religion provides the moral base required for democracy to succeed;

Whereas, in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, 572 U.S. 565 (2014), the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed that “people of many faiths may be united in a community of tolerance and devotion”;

Whereas the principle of religious freedom “has guided our Nation forward”, as expressed by the 44th President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 2011, and freedom of religion “is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe”, as expressed by that President of the United States on Religious Freedom Day in 2013;

Whereas “[f]reedom of religion is a fundamental human right that must be upheld by every nation and guaranteed by every government”, as expressed by the 42nd President of the United States in a Presidential proclamation on Religious Freedom Day in 1999;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects—

(1) the right of individuals to freely express and act on the religious beliefs of those individuals; and

(2) individuals from coercion to profess or act on a religious belief to which those individuals do not adhere;