

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 287—COMMEMORATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF PEACEFUL PROTESTS IN CUBA ON JULY 11, 2021, CONDEMNING THE ONGOING ACTS OF REPRESSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE CUBAN PEOPLE BY THE CUBAN REGIME, AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL ARBITRARILY DETAINED CUBAN CITIZENS**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 287

Whereas July 11, 2023, marks 2 years since tens of thousands of Cuban citizens took to the streets to protest peacefully and call for the respect of their basic human rights and fundamental freedoms and the end of communist dictatorship in Cuba;

Whereas the demonstrations on July 11, 2021, were the largest peaceful protests witnessed in Cuba in more than 25 years, with courageous Cuban men, women, and youth taking to the streets in at least 50 different cities and towns across every province to affirm a profound aspiration for democratic change and to denounce repression and corruption by the Cuban regime;

Whereas the demonstrations followed decades of grievances from the Cuban people regarding the dictatorship, arbitrary repression, and severe mismanagement of the country, including shortages of food and basic medicine, and frequent power outages;

Whereas 2 years after the demonstrations, repression by the Cuban regime against Cuban citizens has reached the highest rate in recorded history, with thousands of arbitrary arrests, hundreds of politically motivated convictions, and credible allegations of torture and other abuses related to such protests, including—

(1) charges against approximately 800 Cuban citizens, including 115 protestors between the ages of 16 and 20, with sedition and other illegitimate charges;

(2) the sentencing of more than 550 Cuban citizens, including more than 20 underage protestors, many of whom have been sentenced to prison terms up to 30 years; and

(3) the subjection of the majority of prisoners to inhumane conditions, including intentional deprivation of medical care, sleep, food, and other basic necessities;

Whereas, according to the Cuban human rights organization Justicia 11J, as of the end of 2022, more than 600 protestors from the demonstrations remain arbitrarily detained for exercising their fundamental freedoms, including the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;

Whereas international human rights organizations have condemned the Cuban regime for violating human rights and fundamental freedoms and have called for the immediate release of peaceful demonstrators, including organizations and individuals such as—

(1) Human Rights Watch, which assessed that the Cuban regime committed systematic human rights violations in response to massive antigovernment protests in July 2021 with the intent of punishing protestors and deterring future demonstrations;

(2) Amnesty International, which has called on the Cuban regime to guarantee the

human rights of Cuban prisoners of conscience and hundreds of other individuals arbitrarily detained for exercising their human rights;

(3) former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, who has called on the Cuban regime to release protestors and several journalists arrested at various demonstrations and denounced the excessive use of force by the regime; and

(4) the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which has condemned state repression and the use of force during peaceful social protests in Cuba and urged the regime to engage in dialogue to address citizen demands;

Whereas Cuba has some of the most restrictive laws on freedom of assembly and freedom of the press in the world, which have only further intensified since the demonstrations on July 11, 2021, with the passage of amendments to Penal Code of the Republic of Cuba on December 1, 2022, which limit freedom of expression online by criminalizing the sharing of undefined “fake information”;

Whereas the peaceful protests in 2021 continue to inspire numerous protestors across Cuba seeking to advance the fundamental rights of the Cuban people, such as the May 8, 2023, protests in the town of Caimanera;

Whereas, since July 11, 2021, the Cuban regime continues the systemic repression of protestors, particularly the selective and deliberate criminalization of individuals who exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly, and association by speaking up against government policies and the arbitrary suspension of internet communications, according to a May 12, 2023, statement by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;

Whereas the report entitled “2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Cuba”, published by the Department of State, details “significant human rights issues” in Cuba, including credible reports of extrajudicial killings, restrictions on freedom of movement, restrictions on freedom of religious expression, unreasonable restrictions on political participation, and state-sponsored forced labor practices;

Whereas, according to the nongovernmental organization Prisoners Defenders, the Cuban regime continues to detain an estimated 1,048 political prisoners;

Whereas, on June 12, 2023, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights concluded that there was “serious and sufficient” evidence to hold the Cuban regime responsible for the 2012 murders of Nobel Peace Prize nominee Oswaldo Paya and activist Harold Cepero, and called on the Cuban regime—

(1) to make full reparation for the murders;

(2) to initiate a prompt investigation to identify the responsible actors;

(3) to pursue accountability measures against such actors; and

(4) to undertake structural reforms to protect human rights defenders in the Cuba; and

Whereas, despite gross and systemic efforts to violate the human rights of the Cuban people, Cuba remains a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, a position the Cuban regime uses to prevent scrutiny on the human rights records of other authoritarian regimes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the second anniversary of the largest peaceful protests against the communist dictatorship in Cuba;

(2) expresses solidarity with the brave people of Cuba who participated in the peaceful demonstrations on July 11, 2021 and were subsequently arbitrarily detained and sentenced;

(3) commits to supporting the people of Cuba in their aspirations to transition to democracy under a government that respects human rights and democratic freedoms;

(4) calls on the Secretary of State—

(A) to advocate for the immediate release and humane treatment of all political prisoners and democratic protestors arbitrarily detained in Cuba in the aftermath of the peaceful demonstrations on July 11, 2021;

(B) to continue supporting independent Cuban civil society groups and democratic activists;

(C) to call for—

(i) the recognition of the June 12, 2023, decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, holding the regime responsible for the murders of democratic activists Oswaldo Paya and Harold Cepero; and

(ii) accountability for the murders; and

(D) to work with member states of the United Nations to deny Cuba a second consecutive term on the United Nations Human Rights Council; and

(5) urges democratic governments and legislatures in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean—

(A) to speak out against the ongoing repression facing the Cuban people and call on the Cuban regime to immediately release all political prisoners and democratic protestors arbitrarily detained in Cuba in the aftermath of the peaceful demonstrations of July 11, 2021;

(B) to publicly recognize the June 12, 2023, decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, finding the Cuban regime directly responsible for the murders of democratic activists Oswaldo Paya and Harold Cepero, and call on the Cuban regime to implement the recommendations in the decision; and

(C) to hold the Cuban regime accountable for violent repression and other human rights violations in the aftermath of the July 2021 protests, including by committing to deny Cuba a second consecutive term on the United Nations Human Rights Council.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 288—OBSERVING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

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

S. RES. 288

Whereas Vanderbilt University was founded in 1873 to create opportunities, promote community engagement, and inspire future generations of scholars;

Whereas Vanderbilt University, forged in Tennessee spirit, has grown from a regional university to one of the premier research institutions in the United States;

Whereas Vanderbilt University has, since its inception, provided distinguished educational opportunities to tens of thousands of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students from across the United States and around the world;

Whereas the partnerships Vanderbilt University developed with stakeholders foster the fulfillment of human potential by supporting organizations and working to bring the people and resources of Vanderbilt University together in service of others;

Whereas the world-renowned researchers of Vanderbilt University are using revolutionary innovation to address the most urgent and complex problems of society;

Whereas, with over 154,000 active alumni and 6 Nobel Laureates, Vanderbilt University graduates throughout the world lead in their respective fields and continue to push the limits of scientific discovery;

Whereas Vanderbilt University student-athletes set new benchmarks for excellence both on and off the field; and

Whereas Vanderbilt University is proud of, but not satisfied with, its accomplishments of the past 150 years and aims to grow to become the Great University of the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors and congratulates Vanderbilt University on the occasion of its 150th anniversary;

(2) commends Vanderbilt University for its remarkable history of seminal research and educating generations of leaders, scientists, teachers, nurses, doctors, and engineers; and

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

(A) the Chancellor of Vanderbilt University, Daniel Diermeier; and

(B) the Chair of the Board of Trust, Bruce R. Evans.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 289—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2023 AS “AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 289

Whereas cut flower and foliage growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and foliage grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend over \$59,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, an increasing number of households in the United States purchase fresh-cut flowers and foliage from more than 12,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the annual per capita spending on floral products by consumers in the United States is more than \$177;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers and foliage whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers and foliage they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the “Certified American Grown” logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers and foliage from domestic producers;

Whereas millions of stems of domestically grown flowers and foliage are now “Certified American Grown”;

Whereas domestic flower and foliage farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers and foliage across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, larkspur in Texas, and leatherleaf in Florida;

Whereas the flower and foliage varieties with the highest production in the United States are tulips, lilies, Gerbera daisies, gladiolas, leatherleaf, irises, and roses;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers and foliage, yet only 22 percent of flowers and foliage

sold in the United States are domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic-cut flower and foliage industry—

(1) creates a substantial economic impact daily; and

(2) supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas most domestic-cut flowers and foliage are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers and foliage grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower and foliage giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers and foliage speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers and foliage help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers and foliage in the United States by domestic flower and foliage farmers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 2023 as “American Grown Flower Month”;

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers and foliage grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and foliage in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers and foliage domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and foliage grown in the United States in order to show support for—

(A) the flower and foliage farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States; and

(B) the agricultural industry of the United States overall.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 290—HONORING THE LIFE OF OLIVER HAZARD PERRY MORTON

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

S. RES. 290

Whereas Oliver Hazard Perry Morton (referred to in this preamble as “Morton”) was born in Wayne County, Indiana, on August 4, 1823;

Whereas 2023 is the 200th anniversary of Morton's birth;

Whereas Morton attended Miami University in Ohio and studied law both in Centerville, Indiana, and in law school at what is known today as the University of Cincinnati;

Whereas, in 1852, Morton was chosen to serve on the bench of the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court of Indiana;

Whereas Morton was elected lieutenant governor of Indiana on the ticket with Henry S. Lane and became governor in 1861 when Lane was elected to the Senate;

Whereas Morton was the first native born Hoosier to be elected Governor of Indiana;

Whereas Morton served as Governor of Indiana for 6 years between 1861 and 1867 and was a loyal supporter of the Union's efforts during the Civil War;

Whereas the Civil War started during Morton's tenure as governor, and Morton responded to President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops by providing 6,000 men;

Whereas, when the Indiana legislature neglected to grant funding for the war effort, Morton personally raised money to equip and pay the soldiers;

Whereas Morton was re-elected as governor in 1864 and served until 1867, when he was elected to the Senate;

Whereas Morton was a Senator from 1867 to 1877;

Whereas Morton unsuccessfully ran for the Republican presidential nomination in 1876;

Whereas the Oliver P. Morton House in Centerville, Indiana, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and is named in Morton's honor;

Whereas there are statues of Morton on the steps of the Indiana Statehouse entrance and at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis, Indiana;

Whereas Morton is 1 of Indiana's 2 assigned statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol; and

Whereas Morton died on November 1, 1877, and is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the dedication and efforts of Governor Oliver Hazard Perry Morton helped preserve the Union during the Civil War and were of importance to the State of Indiana during that difficult time in United States history;

(2) the continued legacy of Governor Oliver Hazard Perry Morton continues to enrich the community and State of Indiana and he is 1 of Indiana's most notable Hoosiers; and

(3) the dedication and life of Governor Oliver Hazard Perry Morton should be recognized, especially in 2023, which marks the 200th anniversary of his birth.

# AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 140. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 141. Mr. HOEVEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 142. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.