

in the Grammy-winning “Patria y Vida” and were sentenced to 9 and 5 years, respectively, have been unjustly imprisoned for 2 years, and Otero Alcantara has engaged in hunger strikes to protest his abhorrent treatment;

Whereas the Cuban regime has employed so-called “Committees for the Defense of the Revolution” to force neighbors to spy and turn against each other, which has spread distrust and fear among the Cuban people and caused an environment that is deleterious to a strong social fabric and thriving civil society;

Whereas, on July 11, 2021, thousands of courageous protesters gathered throughout Cuba, in every province, to demand “libertad” and human rights and to express opposition to dictatorship in Cuba;

Whereas the Cuban regime reacted to the July 11 protests with violence, arbitrary arrests, often by plain clothes state security operatives, and forced disappearances and by shutting down internet access and calling on supporters of the regime to harass protesters, and prosecuted as many as 790 Cubans for peacefully calling for freedom in the protests;

Whereas Cubalex reported that the Cuban regime prosecuted 55 children in the wake of the July 11 protests, imposing prison sentences as long as 23 years, while dozens of children reportedly remain in prison to this day; and

Whereas, since Fidel Castro illegitimately and violently seized power, hundreds of thousands of Cuban nationals have fled Communist oppression: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the release of all political prisoners and for the end of acts of repression, arbitrary imprisonments, torture, and other human rights abuses against the Cuban people;

(2) honors the courageous Cuban people for daring to stand up to the Cuban regime and demanding respect for fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of expression and assembly;

(3) recognizes the brave prodemocracy and human rights activists, including independent journalists, artists, labor leaders, and religious leaders, who have been persecuted throughout decades of Communist tyranny;

(A) urges other democracies, regional, and multilateral organizations to affirm that—

(i) violence against the unarmed people of Cuba will not be tolerated; and

(ii) human rights abusers will be held accountable for their crimes;

(4) calls on the European Union—

(A) to reconsider the failed Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement; and

(B) to place freedom and human rights at the center of the policy toward Cuba;

(5) expresses solidarity with the long-suffering Cuban people in their demands for a genuine democratic transition; and

(6) calls on the international community to stand with the people struggling for freedom in Cuba by condemning repression and expressing unequivocal support for the rights to self-governance, human rights, and basic liberties for the Cuban people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 296—DESIGNATING JULY 2023 AS “PLASTIC POLLUTION ACTION MONTH”

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

Whereas plastic pollution represents a global threat that will require individual and collective action, both nationally and internationally, to address;

Whereas 450,000,000 tons of plastic is produced each year, a number that is projected to triple by 2050;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) the rate of plastic waste recycling decreased in 2021 to between 4 and 6 percent; and

(2) less than 3 percent of plastic waste is recycled into a similar quality product;

Whereas a recent study from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development found that, in 2022, the United States—

(1) mismanaged 4 percent of plastic waste;

(2) landfilled 73 percent of plastic waste;

(3) incinerated 19 percent of plastic waste; and

(4) recycled 4 percent of plastic waste;

Whereas single-use plastics account for at least 40 percent of the plastic produced every year;

Whereas over 12,000,000 tons of plastic waste enter the ocean every year from land-based sources alone;

Whereas if no action is taken, the flow of plastics into the ocean is expected to triple by 2040;

Whereas recent studies estimate that there are 171,000,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the oceans of the world;

Whereas of the 171,000,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the ocean, 1 percent floats, 5 percent washes up on beaches, and 94 percent sinks to the bottom;

Whereas nearly 1,300 marine species have consumed plastics;

Whereas plastics, and associated chemicals of plastics, are ingested by humans and are associated with well-established human health risks;

Whereas studies have found microplastic particles in human blood, lungs, colons, and placentas;

Whereas studies suggest that humans ingest over 800 microplastics per day;

Whereas taking action to reduce plastic use, collect and clean up litter, and reuse and recycle more plastics will lead to less plastic pollution;

Whereas, every July, people challenge themselves to reduce their plastic footprint through “Plastics Free July”;

Whereas, over the last 40 years, over 17,000,000 volunteers have joined the International Coastal Cleanup to collect more than 350,000,000 pounds of plastic and debris while simultaneously recording their findings to inform research and upstream action;

Whereas switching to reusable items instead of single-use items can prevent waste, save water, and reduce litter; and

Whereas July 2023 is an appropriate month to designate as Plastic Pollution Action Month to recommit to taking action, individually and as a country, to reduce plastic pollution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2023 as “Plastic Pollution Action Month”;

(2) recognizes the dangers to human health and the environment posed by plastic pollution; and

(3) encourages all individuals in the United States to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild public health and the environment by responsibly participating in activities to reduce plastic pollution in July 2023 and year-round.

SENATE RESOLUTION 297—HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LEGACY OF GLORIA MOLINA, THE FIRST LATINA ELECTED TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE, LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL, AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

S. RES. 297

Whereas Gloria Molina was born on May 31, 1948, in Montebello, California, to Leonard Molina and Concepción Molina, who immigrated from Casa Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico;

Whereas Gloria Molina was the oldest of 10 siblings and assisted her parents in raising her siblings;

Whereas Gloria Molina graduated from El Rancho High School in 1966, and attended Rio Hondo Community College, East Los Angeles Community College, and California State University, Los Angeles;

Whereas Gloria Molina’s activism was sparked by the Chicano movement and passion for women’s empowerment;

Whereas Gloria Molina began her advocacy advancing health care and political access for Latinas as President of Comisión Femenil Mexicana National;

Whereas, before being elected to public office, Gloria Molina volunteered for President Carter’s campaign office in California in 1975, and later served as a staffing specialist in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel;

Whereas, in 1979, Gloria Molina served as the Director of Intergovernmental and Congressional Affairs for the region IX office of the United States Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas Gloria Molina was elected to the California State Assembly from the 56th Assembly District in 1982, where she combined passionate advocacy with formidable political skill to strengthen communities in the 56th Assembly District and statewide, and served until her 1987 election to the Los Angeles City Council;

Whereas Gloria Molina was the first ever Latina elected to, and only the third person of Mexican ancestry to serve on, the Los Angeles City Council in 1987;

Whereas, in 1991, after decades of gerrymandering that excluded Latino representation on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Gloria Molina was elected as the first Latina to serve as a Los Angeles County Supervisor;

Whereas Gloria Molina served honorably for 23 years, representing a district that stretched from Koreatown, Pico-Union, and East Los Angeles, all the way east to Pomona and included much of the San Gabriel Valley;

Whereas Gloria Molina became renowned during her service as a County Supervisor as a fiscal watchdog committed to overseeing good government reforms, maintenance of the county’s public health care system, and quality-of-life issues for the millions of county residents living in unincorporated Los Angeles County;

Whereas, throughout her career, Gloria Molina served on various boards, including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the Southwest Voter Education and Registration Project, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), and the California Community Foundation;

Whereas Gloria Molina also served for over 10 years as 1 of 4 Vice Chairs of the Democratic National Committee (DNC);

Whereas Gloria Molina, a strong advocate for the arts and the celebration of Mexican American culture, traditions, and history, in 2011 established LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes in Downtown Los Angeles, and in 2014, the Eastside Arts Initiative to support community-based arts organizations, including CASA 0101 and Self-Help Graphics;

Whereas Gloria Molina, a master quilter and artist, formed the East LA Stitchers (TELAS) to inspire Latinas to express their culture through this art form;

Whereas Gloria Molina was a champion for social justice and fought tirelessly for the most vulnerable Angelenos, from fighting against a plan to build a prison in the Eastside to helping grow the public transportation system and ending the forced sterilizations of women at General Hospital in Los Angeles;

Whereas, throughout a distinguished career, Gloria Molina touched the lives of countless people and will have her life and legacy preserved in Los Angeles;

Whereas the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors voted to dedicate the East Los Angeles Civic Center station in Gloria Molina's name;

Whereas the CASA 0101 Theater in Boyle Heights designated its main theater as the "Gloria Molina Auditorium" in honor of Gloria Molina's donations to Latino arts in the Southland area of Los Angeles;

Whereas the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to rename Grand Park the "Gloria Molina Grand Park" commemorating Gloria Molina's service to Los Angeles;

Whereas the Los Angeles City Council adopted a motion to rename a portion of the Observation Deck in the Tom Bradley Tower which overlooks Grand Park, as the "Gloria Molina Observation deck"; and

Whereas Gloria Molina passed away on May 14, 2023, at the age of 74 after battling cancer for 3 years: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends its deepest sympathies to the friends and loved ones of Gloria Molina of Mount Washington, California, in their bereavement; and

(2) recognizes and celebrates Gloria Molina's historic 32-year political career and the series of firsts that inspired generations of women and Latinos to seek public office, being the first Latina Assembly Member in California, the first Latina on the Los Angeles City Council, and the first Latina on the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.

SENATE RESOLUTION 298—DESIGNATING JULY 30, 2023, AS "NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WICKER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 298

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct that was harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously passed the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: "*Resolved*, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge" (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, DC, 1904-37), 11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution of the United States, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 30, 2023, as "National Whistleblower Appreciation Day"; and

(2) ensures that the Federal Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation passed on July 30, 1778 (relating to whistleblowers), by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States, and members of the public about the legal right of a United States citizen to "blow the whistle" to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13—RECOGNIZING THAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS THE HEALTH, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT LEADERSHIP BY THE UNITED STATES IS STILL URGENTLY NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE NEED OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL, COMPREHENSIVE, SCIENCE-BASED, AND JUST CLIMATE RECOVERY PLAN TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUEL EMISSIONS, PROTECT AND ENHANCE NATURAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION, AND PUT THE UNITED STATES ON A PATH TOWARD STABILIZING THE CLIMATE SYSTEM

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. CON. RES. 13

Whereas a stable climate system at the founding of the United States allowed human life and human civilization to flourish;

Whereas the United States was founded on the deeply rooted principle of securing "the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity";

Whereas the Constitution of the United States protects the fundamental rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the laws;

Whereas a climate system capable of sustaining human life—

(1) is fundamental to a free and ordered society; and

(2) is preservative of fundamental rights, including the rights to life, liberty, property, personal security, family autonomy, bodily integrity, and the ability to learn, practice, and transmit cultural and religious traditions;

Whereas fossil fuel use for energy in the United States has increased since the Industrial Revolution, and accelerated to the point that the national fossil fuel-based energy system has led to carbon dioxide emissions from the United States constituting more than ¼ of cumulative global carbon dioxide emissions;

Whereas the Federal Government sets the energy policy of the United States, which has resulted in a national energy system in which approximately 80 percent of the energy produced in the United States comes from fossil fuels;

Whereas the United States is the largest producer of oil and gas in the world, due in substantial part to the Federal Government—

(1) leasing Federal public land and water for fossil fuel extraction; and

(2) actively promoting, permitting, and subsidizing fossil fuel energy development and consumption;

Whereas there is an overwhelming scientific consensus that—

(1) human-caused climate change is occurring;