

(D) coordinate with civil society groups that help advance voter education, voter registration, and election observation;

(E) minimize bureaucratic hurdles for accreditation of citizen and international observers and ensure they have unfettered access to all aspects of the electoral process; and

(F) work with the United Nations and the international community to enfranchise millions of Nigerian citizens that have become internally displaced due to violent conflict;

(8) urges political parties in Nigeria to undertake reforms that reinforce democratic values and good-governance, including by—

(A) holding candidates, elected officials, and party operators accountable for efforts to interfere with elections, including vote buying, voter intimidation, and electoral violence;

(B) addressing financial and other barriers that routinely block women and young people from participating or running for elected office; and

(C) addressing electoral corruption, patronage, and clientelism;

(9) calls upon the United States Government and the international community to continue to invest in programs aimed at advancing voter education, electoral security, conflict mitigation, electoral dispute resolution, anti-corruption efforts, as well as the development of political parties in Nigeria, including—

(A) funding pre- and post-election data collection with the Government of Nigeria and INEC in accordance with the best election data maintenance and accessibility practices to ensure there is a free open source for post-election data that is transparent and permanently available to the public;

(B) supporting the right of Nigerian citizens to vote in elections that are free, fair, credible, and consistent with international democratic standards;

(C) promoting accountability for any individual that seeks to use violence, intimidation, or corrupt electoral practices to undermine peaceful credible elections in Nigeria, including through consideration of targeted financial and travel sanctions;

(D) enabling citizen and international observation initiatives unfettered access to observe and issue reports on the pre-election, election day, and post-election processes, including independent verification of election results to the greatest extent possible; and

(E) working alongside the Government of Nigeria to call out and address disinformation about the electoral process or from malign external actors;

(10) calls on candidates running for the office of the president, governor, and Federal and state elected offices to publicly commit to peace and to pursue the resolution of election disputes through peaceful means; and

(11) calls on the Secretary of State to pursue diplomatic engagement to encourage a peaceful and transparent electoral process in Nigeria in 2023, including by coordinating efforts among various United States Government agencies and departments to further good governance, strengthen democratic and electoral institutions in Nigeria, and prevent intercommunal violence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 37—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. CARDIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 37

Resolved,

SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2023, through February 28, 2025, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, under this resolution shall not exceed \$2,518,098, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,316,738, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$1,798,642, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$50,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023;

(2) for the period October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2024, through February 28, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 299

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for the first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 299) to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

Mr. KAINE. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 8:20 p.m. today and proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the joint session of Congress provided under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 11; that upon dissolution of the joint session, the Senate adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 9; that following the prayer and

pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Benjamin nomination; that at 11 a.m., all remaining postcloture time on the nomination be considered expired; that following disposition of the Benjamin nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Chung nomination; that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, we will gather in the Senate Chamber at 8:20

p.m. to proceed as a body to the House for the State of the Union.

RECESS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it recess under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 8:20 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:32 p.m., recessed until 8:20 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the President pro tempore.

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Kelly Fado; the Secretary of the Senate, Ann Berry; and the Vice President of the United States, KAMALA HARRIS, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023, AT 10 A.M.

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses, and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:41 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 10 a.m.