

Whereas the previous attendance record was set at the 2002 national championship game between the University of Connecticut and the University of Oklahoma, attended by 29,619 fans;

Whereas the Crossover at Kinnick event was the first ever NCAA women's basketball game to be played outdoors in a football stadium;

Whereas women athletes at the collegiate level are important role models for young athletes, particularly women and girls, by serving as examples of what can be achieved by pursuing one's dreams through participation in athletics;

Whereas participation in sports helps foster confidence, self-discipline, leadership, and teamwork in young girls;

Whereas the achievements of the Iowa women's basketball program are an inspiration for Iowans and women athletes everywhere; and

Whereas Iowans and University of Iowa alumni across the country are proud of the history made at the Crossover at Kinnick event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Iowa women's basketball players, coaches, and support staff in setting the NCAA women's basketball attendance record at the Crossover at Kinnick event;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the impact of this record-setting event on young women athletes across the country; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate send 1 copy of this resolution to the following individuals:

(A) Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds.

(B) University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson.

(C) University of Iowa Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz.

(D) University of Iowa Women's Basketball Coach Lisa Bluder.

SENATE RESOLUTION 424—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ENGAGE THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO SEEK A SWIFT END TO THE PERSECUTION OF, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST, RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN INDIA AND A REVERSAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FAITHS

Ms. BALDWIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 424

Whereas religious freedom is a core human right and a right recognized by international law and treaties;

Whereas religious freedom is—

(1) a necessary component of United States foreign policy and our Nation's commitment to defending democracy and freedom globally; and

(2) a vital element of national security, which is critical to ensuring a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable world;

Whereas India is the world's most populous democracy, which has long, unique, and important relationship with the United States in promoting common values and upholding regional stability;

Whereas the strong relationship between the United States and India is fundamentally premised on both countries—

(1) cherished common values of liberty, freedom, justice, and equality before law; and

(2) opposition to every type of discrimination;

Whereas, during a visit to India in July 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, “[W]e view Indian democracy as a force for good in defense of a free and open Indo-Pacific [and] a free and open world”;

Whereas the existence of a truly free and open Indo-Pacific is conditional on the protection of the freedoms and rights of all civilians;

Whereas, on June 2, 2022, while releasing the Department of State's 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom, Secretary Blinken commented, “[I]n India, the world's largest democracy and home to a great diversity of faiths, we've seen rising attacks on people and places of worship”;

Whereas, less than 1 year after becoming India's Prime Minister in 2014, Narendra Modi promised, “My government will ensure that there is complete freedom of faith and that everyone has the undeniable right to retain or adopt the religion of his or her choice without coercion or undue influence”;

Whereas India has historically been a strong and pluralistic democracy, being the birthplace of several of the world's great religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism;

Whereas India's 1,300,000,000 people include Hindus, who are the majority at 80 percent, 200,000,000 Muslims, which constitute the world's third largest Muslim population, 40,000,000 Christians, and millions of Sikhs, Jains, Baha'is, Jews, Zoroastrians, and people of innumerable animist and indigenous faiths;

Whereas the preamble to the Constitution of India states, in part, “We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic, and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. . .”;

Whereas article 14 of the Constitution of India states, “The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.”;

Whereas article 25 of the Constitution of India states, in part, “[a]ll persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion.”;

Whereas violence against India's religious minorities, especially Muslims and Christians, has escalated in the last decade;

Whereas such violence against religious minorities has included—

(1) public lynchings by vigilante groups;

(2) the disruption of prayer services at, and the vandalizing and demolition of, mosques and churches;

(3) the demolition of homes and businesses of Muslims without due process by state authorities in retaliation for protesting for their constitutional rights; and

(4) arrests of Muslim men for marrying Hindu women in the name of the false theory of “Love Jihad”;

Whereas India's federal government and various state governments have failed to prosecute the culprits and bring justice to the victims, which has been noted in the 2021 Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and the 2021 Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom;

Whereas in 2020, 2021, and 2022, the United States Commission on International Reli-

gious Freedom (USCIRF) recommended that the Department of State designate India as a country of particular concern for “engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA)”;

Whereas India has failed to act against partisan leaders from the Hindu religious community for repeatedly calling for a genocide of India's Muslims, such as Pooja Shakun Pandey, a leader of Hindu Mahasabha, who stated, in December 2021, in the holy Hindu city of Haridwar in Uttar Pradesh, “If 100 of us are ready to kill 2,000,000 [Muslims], then we will win and make India a Hindu nation”;

Whereas the Indian state of Karnataka has, without cause, banned Muslim female students from wearing the hijab in schools and colleges, which violates their fundamental rights guaranteed under article 14 of the Constitution of India;

Whereas in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir, the only Indian state with a majority Muslim population—

(1) was deprived of its special autonomy without ensuring consultation or any participation of the people living in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(2) was split into 2 federally governed union territories;

Whereas, in December 2019, the Indian Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (referred to in this resolution as the “CAA”), which allows expedited citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsees, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan, but excludes Muslims, which imposes a religious basis to the bestowal of citizenship for the first time;

Whereas Indian police have wrongfully arrested hundreds of people throughout India, most of them Muslims, merely for protesting against the enactment of the CAA over concerns that this law would be used in conjunction with a nationwide head count to deny citizenship to Muslims, a concern that has been repeatedly expressed by the USCIRF;

Whereas the Indian police arrested prominent Muslim activists on charges of carrying out violence against Muslims in Delhi coinciding with a visit by then President Donald Trump to the Indian capital, but failed to act against violent mobs that actually carried out the anti-Muslim violence as documented by the Delhi Minorities Commission of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Amnesty International India;

Whereas, during the widespread protests against the CAA and the National Register for Citizens (referred to in this resolution as the “NRC”) the police, instead of stopping the violence against the protesters, sometimes joined crowds shouting Hindu nationalist slogans and fired indiscriminately on peaceful protestors, which killed many of them;

Whereas USCIRF has recommended that the “United States Government should consider sanctions against Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah and other principal leadership” for the passage of the CAA;

Whereas a headcount for the NRC held in Assam state in 2019 determined that 1,900,000 of the state's 31,000,000 residents do not have sufficient documents proving that they or their parents lived in Assam from before 1971, and they are now likely to be stripped of their citizenship by quasi-judicial bodies known as Foreigners Tribunals;

Whereas approximately 500,000 of these 1,900,000 undocumented people are Muslims and thousands of them have been uprooted from their homes, where they have lived for generations, and sent to detention centers;

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, government operatives in states ruled by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party have resorted to summary punishments by demolishing Muslim homes and businesses without legal authorization;

Whereas, according to Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations, India's 40,000,000 Christians are increasingly targeted by police and vigilante mobs throughout India, leading to a steep rise in incidents of violence against Christians, with 1,198 incidents recorded in 2022, which represents a staggering increase from the 761 such incidents reported in 2021;

Whereas International Christian Concern, a United States-based nongovernmental organization, has reported that anti-blasphemy and anti-forced conversion laws, which effectively criminalize minority religious beliefs and freedom of conscience, are becoming increasingly common throughout India and have led to numerous cases of violence against religious minorities;

Whereas a culture of impunity for radical Hindu nationalists has led to an unprecedented level of violence against Christian, Muslims, and other vulnerable religious minorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the security challenges faced by the Government of India and the continuing threat of state-supported cross-border terrorism;

(2) encourages the Government of India to amend the discriminatory laws and executive orders based on the love, jihad conspiracy theory, including the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, by treating Muslims the same as other religious groups, and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act;

(3) urges the Government of India—

(A) to end the discriminatory and undemocratic NRC and return citizenship to the estimated 1,900,000 people who declared non-citizens in a wholly dubious manner;

(B) to immediately release individuals unnecessarily detained in detention centers, protect the right to health of such individuals, and ensure access to healthcare and safe, sanitary conditions for anyone who remains detained;

(C) to immediately release any unjustly detained human rights defenders, journalists, and other critics, many of whom have been held in custody for longer than 1 year without being charged with a crime;

(D) to establish accountability for the brutal police violence against the anti-CAA protesters by prosecuting the policemen and others in the chain of command who are found to be complicit in such violence;

(E) to repeal the anti-conversion and anti-blasphemy laws that are widely misused against religious minorities, especially Christians;

(F) to repeal the hijab ban in Karnataka and allow thousands of Muslim girls and women to attend classes, as students or teachers, while wearing the hijab;

(G) to end the demolition of homes, businesses, and places of worship belonging to Muslims and Christians; and

(H) to allow unrestricted access to Jammu and Kashmir by independent human rights observers and international press; and

(4) calls on the Government of India to repeal the colonial-era sedition law (section 124 of the Indian Penal Code) that is used to stifle dissent and debate and has been used against individuals who express their opposition to the CAA.

SENATE RESOLUTION 425—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF “PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC DAY” AND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC STATIONS IN SERVING LISTENERS, MUSICIANS, AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 425

Whereas more than 25,000,000 listeners in the United States tune in weekly to local noncommercial radio stations to discover, learn about, and enjoy music selections, artists, and genres that are, in many cases, available only on public radio;

Whereas approximately 697 public radio music stations serve rural and urban communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam;

Whereas local public radio music stations celebrate a broad collection of sounds and styles, including jazz, blues, classical, Americana, alternative, folk, roots, bluegrass, and other genres;

Whereas 95 percent of over-the-air broadcasts of classical music in the United States come from local public radio stations;

Whereas local, noncommercial, not-for-profit, public radio music stations develop local artists and audiences, sustain music and performers, and educate and enrich their audiences and communities;

Whereas local public radio music stations are locally staffed and programmed, are connected to the unique culture of their community, and share core values of music discovery, curation, preservation, and performance with their audiences;

Whereas knowledgeable local hosts, live announcers, and expert curation on public radio music stations have a proven track record of—

(1) helping audiences discover new and emerging homegrown musicians; and

(2) providing deep explorations into the history and cultural impact of music;

Whereas public radio music stations—

(1) tailor their content and programming to reflect regional tastes and talent;

(2) make music more accessible through local performances, studio sessions, artist interviews, and music journalism; and

(3) broadcast news and information about the local music industry;

Whereas public radio music stations connect musicians and artists with local audiences through an expanding range of platforms, including free over-the-air broadcasts, podcasts, videos, digital, and on-stage;

Whereas the emphasis of public radio on music presentation adds to the journey of lifelong music enjoyment;

Whereas public radio music stations serve as cultural hubs in their communities by providing a place for listeners to come together for the shared enjoyment of music and to support the local music economy;

Whereas local public radio stations partner with schools, hospitals, and other community organizations to promote broad access to music for the public;

Whereas the values and collective commitment of public radio music stations to community service, education, and cultural support separate these nonprofit, noncommercial radio stations from other music providers; and

Whereas, October 25, 2023, would be an appropriate day to designate as “Public Radio Music Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Public Radio Music Day”; and

(2) expresses its deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 426—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 4, 2023, AS “NATIONAL BISON DAY”

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 426

Whereas, on May 9, 2016, the North American bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States;

Whereas bison are considered a historical and cultural symbol of the United States;

Whereas bison are integrally linked with the economic and spiritual lives of many Indian Tribes through trade and sacred ceremonies;

Whereas there are approximately 82 Indian Tribes participating in the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which is a Tribal organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”) (48 Stat. 988, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5124);

Whereas numerous members of Indian Tribes are involved in bison restoration on Tribal land;

Whereas members of Indian Tribes have a combined herd of almost 25,000 bison on more than 1,000,000 acres of Tribal land in 22 States;

Whereas bison play an important role in the health of the wildlife, landscapes, and grasslands of the United States;

Whereas bison hold significant economic value for private producers and Tribal and rural communities;

Whereas, as of 2017, the Department of Agriculture estimates that 182,780 head of bison were under the stewardship of private producers, creating jobs and contributing to the food security of the United States by providing a sustainable and healthy meat source;

Whereas a bison has been depicted on the official seal of the Department of the Interior since 1912;

Whereas the Department of the Interior has launched the Bison Conservation Initiative, a 10-year cooperative initiative to coordinate the conservation and restoration of wild American bison;

Whereas a bison is portrayed on 2 State flags;

Whereas the bison has been adopted by 3 States as the official mammal or animal of those States;

Whereas the buffalo nickel played an important role in modernizing the currency of the United States;

Whereas several sports teams and businesses have the bison as a mascot, which highlights the iconic and cultural significance of bison in the United States;

Whereas Indigenous communities and a group of ranchers helped save bison from extinction in the late 1800s by gathering the remaining bison of the diminished herds;

Whereas, on December 8, 1905, William Hornaday, Theodore Roosevelt, and others