

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

PN1059 SPACE FORCE nominations (4) beginning JOHN S. DONELSON, and ending RYAN M. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-255, appoints the following individuals (effective January 1, 2024) to serve as members of the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee: Zeynep Sumer King of New York; and Derek De Young of Wisconsin.

ALL-AMERICAN FLAG ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 197, S. 1973.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1973) to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is in bold boldfaced brackets, and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is in italic.)

S. 1973

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “All-American Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), funds appropriated or otherwise available to an agency may not be used for the procurement of any flag of the United States, unless such flag has been 100 percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

“(b) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the head of the agency concerned determines

that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of a flag described in such subsection cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

“(1) Procurements by vessels in foreign waters.

“(2) Procurements for resale purposes in any military commissary, military exchange, or nonappropriated fund instrumentality operated by an agency.

“(3) Procurements for amounts less than the simplified acquisition threshold.

“(d) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the requirement in subsection (a) if the President determines a waiver is necessary to comply with any trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

“(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—Not later than 30 days after granting a waiver under paragraph (1), the President shall publish a notice of the waiver in the Federal Register.

“(e) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each manufacturer of a flag of the United States shall maintain records related to such flags marketed by the manufacturer for a period of 5 years demonstrating that articles, materials and supplies used for the flags have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—The records described in paragraph (1) shall be made available to an agency upon request, at reasonable times and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, including allowing electronic access to such records.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘executive agency’ in section 102 of title 40.

“(2) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term ‘simplified acquisition threshold’ has the meaning given that term in section 134.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 6310 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with respect to any contract entered into on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the committee-reported amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1973), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1973

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “All-American Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), funds appropriated or otherwise available to an agency may not be used for the procurement of any flag of the United States, unless such flag has been 100 percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

“(b) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the head of the agency concerned determines that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of a flag described in such subsection cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

“(1) Procurements by vessels in foreign waters.

“(2) Procurements for resale purposes in any military commissary, military exchange, or nonappropriated fund instrumentality operated by an agency.

“(3) Procurements for amounts less than the simplified acquisition threshold.

“(d) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the requirement in subsection (a) if the President determines a waiver is necessary to comply with any trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

“(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—Not later than 30 days after granting a waiver under paragraph (1), the President shall publish a notice of the waiver in the Federal Register.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘executive agency’ in section 102 of title 40.

“(2) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term ‘simplified acquisition threshold’ has the meaning given that term in section 134.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 6310 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with respect to any contract entered into on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

CONDEMNING RUSSIA'S UNJUST AND ARBITRARY DETENTION OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA WHO HAS STOOD UP IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW, AND FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN RUSSIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 52, S. Con. Res. 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7) condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to the preamble to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly "false information" in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza, in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemnation of Vladimir Putin's policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was also responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations tar-

geted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for "carrying out the activities" of an "undesirable foreign organization" and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with "high treason" due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin's military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison, one of the highest sentences given to any Russian opposition figure;

Whereas, since Mr. Kara-Murza's arrest, the state of his health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition that under Russian law, should preclude him from incarceration;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza's unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin's regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute's Courage and Leadership Award for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza "is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia" and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as "a personal hero whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring";

Whereas, in March 2023, the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State imposed Global Magnitsky and other targeted sanctions on six Russians involved in Mr. Kara-Murza's ongoing arbitrary detention, recognized his role as "a major advocate for the adoption of Magnitsky-style sanctions authorities by the United States, Canada, European Union, and United Kingdom to target human rights abusers and corrupt actors in Russia," and called for his immediate release;

Whereas, in April 2023, 81 Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging that Mr. Kara-Murza be designated under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) as "unlawfully and wrongfully detained"; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin's authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),
That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian democratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

(2) calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Russian opposition leaders, including Alexei Navalny, who are detained as a result of their opposition to the Putin regime;

(3) calls on all Russian citizens to outright condemn Russia's illegal and unjust invasion of Ukraine in the spirit of Mr. Kara-Murza's defiant stance in front of the Arizona House of Representatives in March 2022;

(4) expresses solidarity with and calls for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners by Putin's regime in violation of the rule of law as a result of their support for liberal democratic values; and

(5) calls on the President of the United States and leaders from across the free world to work tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia and increase support for those advocating for democracy in Russia, as well as independent media and civil society which Mr. Kara-Murza has worked to further.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the concurrent resolution be withdrawn; that the Cardin substitute amendment at the desk to the concurrent resolution be agreed to; that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the preamble be withdrawn; that the Cardin substitute amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or to debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1359) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian democratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

(2) calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Russian opposition leaders, including Alexei Navalny, who are detained as a result of their opposition to the Putin regime;

(3) expresses solidarity with and calls for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners by Putin's regime in violation of the rule of law as a result of their support for liberal democratic values; and

(4) calls on the President of the United States and leaders from across the free world to work tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, to the preamble was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1360) to the preamble, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble.)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly "false information" in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in

contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza, in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemnation of Vladimir Putin's policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was also responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations targeted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for "carrying out the activities" of an "undesirable foreign organization" and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with "high treason" due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin's military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison, one of the highest sentences given to any Russian opposition figure;

Whereas, since Mr. Kara-Murza's arrest, the state of his health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition

that under Russian law, should preclude him from incarceration;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza's unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin's regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute's Courage and Leadership Award for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza "is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia" and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as "a personal hero whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring";

Whereas, in April 2023, 81 Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging that Mr. Kara-Murza be designated under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) as "unlawfully and wrongfully detained"; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin's authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 7

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly "false information" in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza, in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemnation of Vladimir Putin's policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was also responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations targeted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for "carrying out the activities" of an "undesirable foreign organization" and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with "high treason" due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin's military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison, one of the highest sentences given to any Russian opposition figure;

Whereas, since Mr. Kara-Murza's arrest, the state of his health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition that under Russian law, should preclude him from incarceration;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza's unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin's regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute's Courage and Leadership Award for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza “is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia” and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as “a personal hero whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring”;

Whereas, in April 2023, 81 Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging that Mr. Kara-Murza be designated under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) as “unlawfully and wrongfully detained”; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin’s authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian democratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

(2) calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Russian opposition leaders, including Alexei Navalny, who are detained as a result of their opposition to the Putin regime;

(3) expresses solidarity with and calls for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners by Putin’s regime in violation of the rule of law as a result of their support for liberal democratic values; and

(4) calls on the President of the United States and leaders from across the free world to work tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia.

VETERAN IMPROVEMENT COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 656 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 656) to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 656) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 656

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR APPROVAL OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”;

(3) in paragraph (1)(B), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting “except as provided in paragraph (2),” before “the course”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2)(A) Subject to this paragraph, a commercial driver education program is exempt from paragraph (1)(B) for a branch of an educational institution if the commercial driver education program offered at the branch by the educational institution—

“(i) is appropriately licensed; and

“(ii) uses the same curriculum as a commercial driver education program offered by the educational institution at another location that is approved for purposes of this chapter by a State approving agency or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency.

“(B)(i) In order for a commercial driver education program of an educational institution offered at a branch described in paragraph (1)(B) to be exempt under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the educational institution shall submit to the Secretary each year that paragraph (1)(B) would otherwise apply a report that demonstrates that the curriculum at the new branch is the same as the curriculum at the primary location.

“(ii) Reporting under clause (i) shall be submitted in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary shall establish in consultation with the State approving agencies.

“(C)(i) The Secretary may withhold an exemption under subparagraph (A) for any educational institution or branch of an educational institution as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(ii) In making any determination under clause (i), the Secretary may consult with the Secretary of Transportation on the performance of a provider of a commercial driver program, including the status of the provider within the Training Provider Registry of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration when appropriate.”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish requirements under section 3680A(e)(2)(B)(ii) of such title, as added by subsection (a).

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to commercial driver education programs on and after the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

WOUNDED WARRIOR ACCESS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1226 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1226) to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1226) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ENSURING THE SECURITY OF OFFICE SPACE RENTED BY SENATORS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3222, introduced earlier today by Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3222) to ensure the security of office space rented by Senators, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 3222) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3222

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SECURITY OF OFFICE SPACE RENTED BY SENATORS.

Section 3 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1975 (2 U.S.C. 6317) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as subparagraphs (A) through (L), respectively;

(B) by striking “The aggregate” and inserting “(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the aggregate”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The aggregate square feet of office space for purposes of paragraph (1) shall not include any portion of the office space used for security or safety enhancements that are—

“(A) of a kind authorized by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, which shall include an information technology security closet and a secure lobby or reception area; and

“(B) approved by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.”; and