

S. 2464

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2464, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements with respect to diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.

S. 2514

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2514, a bill to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, *supra*.

S. 2696

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2696, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the water conservation or irrigation efficiency practice waiver authority.

S. 2698

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2698, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to provide payments to producers experiencing certain crop losses as a result of a disaster.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 3187

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 3187, a bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to publish various publications and reports regarding the number of aliens seeking entry along the southern border of the United States.

S. 3271

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3271, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Hmong people, in recognition of their highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the fight against communism.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as “buy, borrow, die”, to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes.

S. 3423

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3423, a bill to guarantee the right to vote for all citizens regardless of conviction of a criminal offense, and for other purposes.

S. 3470

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3470, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 505

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 505, a resolution condemning the use of sexual violence and rape as a weapon of war by the terrorist group Hamas against the people of Israel.

S. RES. 510

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 510, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the scientific judgement of the Food and Drug Administration that mifepristone is safe and effective should be respected, and law and policy governing access to lifesaving, time-sensitive medication abortion care in the United States should be equitable and based on science.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 515—CONDEMNING ATTACKS BY IRANIAN MILITARY PROXIES ON THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN IRAQ AND SYRIA AND EMPHASIZING THE URGENCY OF RESPONDING TO AND DETERMINING SUCH ATTACKS

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 515

Whereas, since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies have terrorized neighboring countries and fueled regional instability and violence, including insurgencies and civil wars in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen and attacks on Israel and United States allies in the Persian Gulf;

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran, including through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, continues to provide financing, training, and other forms of support to militia groups in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas Iran-controlled militia groups operating in Iraq and Syria include Kata'ib Hizbullah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Harakat Hizbullah al-Nujaba, and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada;

Whereas Iran-backed militia groups frequently target United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria, including through loitering munitions, improvised explosive devices, rockets, and ballistic missiles;

Whereas, in November 2023, individuals associated with Kata'ib Hizbullah and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq claimed that such groups were responsible for attacks on United States Armed Forces, along with Harakat Hizbullah al-Nujaba and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada;

Whereas the rate of attacks by Iran-backed militia groups against United States Armed Forces in the Middle East increased significantly following Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attack against Israel;

Whereas, since mid-October 2023, Iran-backed militia groups have attacked United States Armed Forces at least 115 times in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas such attacks have injured more than 60 United States military personnel, including through shrapnel wounds, perforated eardrums, and traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas such attacks have damaged the military infrastructure of partner countries, including barracks housing members of the United States Armed Forces at Erbil Air Base, and pose an ongoing risk to the security of personnel, facilities, and citizens of partner countries;

Whereas, on December 8, 2023, Iran-controlled militias attacked the United States embassy in Baghdad with mortar fire;

Whereas, since the October 7 Hamas attack, the administration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., has moved warships, combat aircraft, air defense systems, and additional members of the United States Armed Forces to the Middle East to deter militant groups from widening the conflict;

Whereas United States Armed Forces have carried out a series of strikes in Iraq and Syria in direct response to attacks or impending attacks by Iran-backed militia

groups against United States and coalition forces, including—

(1) on December 3, 2023, when United States Armed Forces engaged 5 militants near Kirkuk, Iraq, preparing to launch a one-way attack drone;

(2) on November 22, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes against 2 facilities in Iraq;

(3) on November 21, 2023, when a United States AC-130 gunship engaged individuals responsible for launching a missile attack on United States and coalition forces at Al Assad Airbase, Iraq;

(4) on November 12, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes against facilities associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups near the cities of Abu Kamal and Mayadin, Syria;

(5) on November 8, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes on a weapons storage facility in eastern Syria used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups; and

(6) on October 26, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted self-defense strikes on 2 facilities in eastern Syria used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups;

Whereas the United States maintains 900 members of the Armed Forces in Syria and 2,500 members in Iraq to advise and assist local forces to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State;

Whereas United States Armed Forces in Iraq also provide support to North Atlantic Treaty Organization Mission Iraq;

Whereas United States Armed Forces remain present in Iraq at the invitation of the Government of Iraq;

Whereas Iran-backed Houthi rebels have conducted a series of attacks on commercial ships traveling through the Red Sea, a vital global trade route, including—

(1) on December 3, 2023, when ballistic missiles fired by Houthi rebels struck 3 commercial ships in the Red Sea while a United States warship shot down 3 drones in self-defense;

(2) on December 13, 2023, when 2 missiles fired from territory held by Houthi rebels missed a commercial tanker loaded with jet fuel near the Bab el-Mandab Strait;

(3) on December 14, 2023, when a missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory missed a container ship in the Bab el-Mandab Strait;

(4) on December 15, 2023, when a ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels struck a container ship and caused it to catch fire; and

(5) on December 18, 2023, when Houthi rebels attacked 2 commercial ships in the Red Sea with naval drones;

Whereas such attacks threaten the safety of ships carrying oil, grain, and other goods through the Red Sea, many of which include cargo and energy shipments vital to the United States and partners in Europe and Asia;

Whereas such attacks have forced global shipping companies including MSC, Maersk, CMA CGM, BP, and others to stop using the Red Sea as a travel route for shipments; and

Whereas, on December 19, 2023, the United States announced Operation Prosperity Guardian, an expanded maritime protection force involving certain countries in the Middle East to combat attacks on vessels traveling through the Red Sea: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns attacks by Iran-backed militia groups on members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria and support by Iran for such attacks;

(2) calls on the administration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to increase pressure on

the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop such attacks and cease support for militia groups that target members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria;

(3) recognizes that maintaining United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria is critical to securing the national interests of the United States by maintaining regional stability and combatting terrorism;

(4) supports the priorities of the Commander of the United States Central Command to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran, counter violent extremist organizations, and compete strategically;

(5) commends the mission focus and resiliency of the United States Armed Forces in conducting self-defense strikes against Iran-backed militia groups that pose a threat to United States Armed Forces and interests in Iraq and Syria;

(6) recognizes the decision of the Biden administration to increase the presence of United States Armed Forces in the Middle East to deter Iran-backed militia groups from attacking members of the United States and undermining the national interests of the United States; and

(7) urges the Biden administration—

(A) to take steps necessary to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran from supporting further attacks; and

(B) to declare that further provocations by the Islamic Republic of Iran will be met with a swift and decisive response in full coordination with United States allies and partners to address the threat Iran-backed militia groups pose to the United States and allied forces in the Middle East.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 516—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

##### S. RES. 516

Whereas Congress passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (referred to in this preamble as the “Endangered Species Act”) in December of 1973 by a vote of 92-0 in the Senate and 355-4 in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Richard Nixon, upon signing the Endangered Species Act into law, stated, “Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed. It is a many-faceted treasure, of value to scholars, scientists, and nature lovers alike, and it forms a vital part of the heritage we all share as Americans [and] which we hold in trust to countless future generations of our fellow citizens.”;

Whereas decades of polling have shown strong bipartisan support for the Endangered Species Act, with more than 4 out of 5 citizens of the United States in favor of it;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act is one of the most successful conservation laws ever enacted by any country, and 99 percent of species protected under the Act have been saved from extinction, including the humpback whale, grizzly bear, and bald eagle;

Whereas thanks to the Endangered Species Act, gray whales still swim our coasts, peregrine falcons still soar our skies, and polar bears still roam the Arctic tundra;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act is currently helping protect and recover more than 2,000 species of plants and animals that are threatened or endangered;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act provides added benefits to people by maintaining healthy natural systems that provide us with clean air and water, food, medicines, and other benefits that we all need to live healthy lives;

Whereas the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services published a study in 2019 that estimated that 25 percent of assessed taxa of plants and animals and 10 percent of insects, which account for 75 percent of all species, could be threatened with extinction;

Whereas, globally, 1,000,000 animal and plant species face extinction within the coming decades, and millions more are declining as habitat loss, climate change, wildlife exploitation, pollution, and other human activities continue to threaten their survival;

Whereas North America alone has lost nearly 3,000,000 birds since 1970, which means more than 1 in 4 birds that have disappeared from the landscape in a mere half a century, and in that same time frame, global wildlife populations have declined by an average of 69 percent;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly half of all ecosystems are at risk of range-wide collapse;

Whereas, as of October 2023, a total of 2,363 species of animals and plants were listed as either endangered or threatened, and 1,668 of all listed species occur in the United States and its territories, and the remainder (695 species) occur solely in other countries;

Whereas the unraveling of the natural world remains a fundamental threat to the well-being of all humanity, which depends on millions of species and the countless services that the web of life provides, and each extinction brings closer the collapse of these planetary life-support systems, including carbon sequestration, pollination, water purification, oxygen production, and disease regulation;

Whereas the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that climate change has caused local species losses, increases in disease, and mass mortality events of plants and animals, resulting in the first climate-driven extinctions, ecosystem restructuring, increases in areas burned by wildfire, and declines in key ecosystem services;

Whereas the planet is experiencing a biodiversity crisis, which many scientists conclude is the sixth mass extinction event, with plant and wildlife species across the globe facing heightened risk of extinction that is largely driven by human activity;

Whereas the United States has prioritized the conservation of imperiled species by enacting the Endangered Species Act and other landmark conservation statutes; and

Whereas the recovery of species under the Endangered Species Act is a remarkable success that should be celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate commemorates the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—CONDEMNING THE HOSTILITIES IN SUDAN AND STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN IN THEIR CALLS FOR PEACE AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: