

The bill (H.R. 1722) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

### COMBATING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ACT OF 2023

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 263, S. 484.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 484) to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Peters substitute amendment at the desk 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.

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

The amendment (No. 1379) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Human Rights Abuses Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RELATING TO AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide training described in subsection (b) to such employees of the Department of Commerce who provide counseling services to businesses engaged in interstate commerce or foreign direct investment as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF TRAINING.—The training required under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) designed to raise awareness about emerging trends and issues with respect to human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including the use of forced labor, against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; and

(2) incorporated to the greatest extent possible into existing training provided by the Department of Commerce.

(c) TIMING.—The training required under subsection (a) shall be offered and updated at such times as the Secretary considers appropriate.

#### SEC. 3. GUIDANCE FOR UNITED STATES BUSINESSES RELATING TO AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

(1) offer guidance for United States businesses engaged in interstate commerce or foreign direct investment, including such

businesses that are, or are considering, conducting transactions with entities subject to the control or influence of jurisdictions where significant human rights abuses have occurred, such as the People's Republic of China; and

(2) incorporate the guidance required under paragraph (1) into any counseling services that the Department of Commerce provides to such businesses as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) provide information about emerging trends and issues involving human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, consisting of the use of forced labor against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, including information about—

(A) risk factors that may be used to identify entities subject to the influence or control of jurisdictions such as the People's Republic of China that may be implicated in human rights abuses;

(B) ways to avoid doing business with entities described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) potential reputational, economic, legal, and other risks of conducting transactions with an entity described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) make clear that the guidance is for advisory purposes only.

The bill (S. 484), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

### NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 1478 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. 1478) to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway", and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. 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. 1478) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1478

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

#### SECTION 1. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to honor all current and future Medal of Honor recipients; and

(2) to recognize the valor and service of those Medal of Honor recipients.

(b) DESIGNATION.—United States Route 20 in each of the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts shall be known and designated as the "National Medal of Honor Highway".

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the highway referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "National Medal of Honor Highway".

### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM'S HISTORIC "CROSSOVER AT KINNICK" GAME AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S SPORTS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 423.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 423) recognizing the University of Iowa women's basketball team's historic "Crossover at Kinnick" game and the importance of women's sports.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Ernst amendment at the desk to the resolution be considered and agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1380) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolution)

On page 3, strike lines 1 through 7 and insert the following:

(A) University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 423), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 423

Whereas, at the Crossover at Kinnick event, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes competed against the DePaul University Blue Devils in a charity basketball game to benefit the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital;

Whereas the Crossover at Kinnick event set a National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolution as the "NCAA") women's basketball attendance record with 55,646 fans filling University of Iowa's Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa;

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) University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson.

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

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking the Presiding Officer for being here at this late hour and for the staff who are here, the pages who are here, the others who are here late at night before the holidays. Thank you for being here and for your service. And I think we are coming to a point—maybe not tonight but in the next 24 hours—when we are going to conclude our business here for the moment or at least temporarily conclude our business.

I wanted to come to the floor because one of the things that I feel very strongly about that we have not yet done is to pass the Ukraine funding, which I think is essential for Ukraine, essential for our own national security, and essential for Western democracy.

I really believe that. I think it is of that importance, and I believe we should have gotten to a bipartisan agreement on this long ago. I think

that we should have gotten it through the House of Representatives long ago. But I am not in charge of the Senate; I am not in charge of the House of Representatives. I am just one person in this body—like the Presiding Officer is—and sometimes democracy moves more slowly than one would like, certainly than I would like.

I feel more optimistic today than I did last week about the prospects of our getting to the point where we have that bipartisan vote and where we can send a piece of legislation over to the House to fund this. The House is not going to start it, we know that, because of the politics over there.

This body is the body that needs to lead and has, I think, a moral responsibility to lead. But for all those reasons, I wanted to come here tonight and say that I was going to lift my hold on the FAA, which is something that I have held up through the course of these negotiations as a way of keeping us here, to be really honest with you.

I don't think we would have come back probably from our departure last week if we didn't have the unfinished business of the FAA to do, and while the FAA is unrelated to the Ukraine funding, it was a must-pass bill, and it is a must-pass bill. We need to pass that bill.

And it was something that could force us to come back here to continue to have the debate, to continue to have the negotiations, to listen to each other on this important issue and the other issues that we have got to deal with this week, including the judges we are confirming—hopefully, a judge from Colorado.

I have been out here before on the floor to explain why I care so much about this. I was out here when we were passing what is called a continuing resolution here in, I think it was September, which is a temporary budget that is used to operate the Federal Government in the absence of what we should do, which is have a real budget.

Sometimes we pass these things called continuing resolutions to kind of keep the lights on in this place, which I sometimes call the land of flickering lights because the standard of success at the end of the year often is whether we have kept these lights flickering for another year. That is not the standard that I wish for our Congress. It is not a standard that I wish for our democracy or for our country.

That is sometimes the standard here, but every now and then, we surprise ourselves. Every now and then, the people who have been in this Chamber have taken on a responsibility for leadership. That has really made a difference in the world. That has made a difference not just to our country but to the entire world and especially to the free world, to democracy.

I have been out here and talked—I won't do it at length tonight—about my mom's own circumstances. She is—well, I won't say how old she is today,

but you can do the math. She was born in 1938 in Warsaw, Poland—born a Polish Jew at the worst possible moment in human history to be born a Jew on this planet and in the worst possible place a person could ask to be born, in a city that was going to shortly experience the horrific invasion of Nazi troops sent there by Adolf Hitler to exterminate the Jews of Europe and many other people who lived in Eastern Europe at that time.

Just in Ukraine and Poland at that time, there were 16 million people who were killed. They were killed by Hitler and killed by Stalin. The people in that region remember that experience like it was yesterday because it was. In human events, it was yesterday.

My mom, as I said, is still alive. She can't believe she has lived long enough to see another shooting war break out in Europe, as she put it, but here we are. There is a reason why she can't believe it. I mean, part of it is that the freedom she experienced and my grandparents experienced and aunt, who is the only other person who survived the war in this country, were unimaginable to them because of what they had gone through in Warsaw.

They were separated during the war. My mother was told that her parents had been killed, and she believed they had died. Then they were reunited after the war, and they went to Stockholm, Sweden, for a year after they spent about a year or two behind the Iron Curtain, because, of course, the Soviet Union had come in and taken over Poland after the war was over—had come in and taken over Warsaw after the war was over.

Warsaw had been completely destroyed. More than 99 percent of its buildings were destroyed. Millions of people who lived in and around Warsaw had been killed. There was literally nothing left. It was rubble. It was rubble.

Like many human beings who have experienced ethnic cleansing and ethnic battles like these, my mom and her parents probably never imagined that there could be a world where disputes could be resolved in some other way besides violence, besides political violence.

Yet, after they stayed there for a couple of years, they realized they wanted something better than what they had, so they went to Stockholm, Sweden, for a year. They lived there. They started their small business again, which was an art dealership that they had in Warsaw, a gallery. Then they moved to Mexico City, and then they were fortunate enough to be allowed to come to the United States of America, and they immigrated.

My mother was the only person in the family who could speak any English. I think she was about 11 years old. Even today, she speaks Swedish and Polish and Spanish and English, but then, she was the only person in the family who could speak any English. She was the only person in her