

alumni and represents one of many exchanges that have cemented our close people-to-people ties;

Whereas, every year, more than 1,000,000 individuals visit Washington, D.C., to celebrate the National Cherry Blossom Festival, which serves as a reminder of the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan; and

Whereas, in April 2024, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio will visit the United States at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Prime Minister Kishida Fumio to the United States;

(2) reaffirms the strong and long-standing partnership between the Governments of the United States and Japan, rooted in a shared commitment to upholding peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(3) stands ready to support efforts to build a more capable and modernized alliance to address regional and global security challenges;

(4) applauds the commitment of the Government of Japan to defense modernization, including its goal to increase defense spending to 2 percent of GDP by 2027;

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the defense of Japan under Article V of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty;

(6) reaffirms that the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article V of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and that the United States remains opposed to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea or undermine Japan's administration of these islands;

(7) recognizes the unprecedented convergence of the national security and defense strategies between our two nations, as well as the need to further bolster deterrence in the Indo-Pacific;

(8) supports Japan's efforts to expand security cooperation with other United States allies and partners, most notably with the Republic of Korea, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Philippines and India;

(9) applauds recent advancements in trilateral cooperation among the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK), as well as bilateral Japan-ROK relations;

(10) encourages efforts to strengthen engagement with Japan in bilateral and multilateral forums, including the Quad;

(11) acknowledges Japan's leadership as the G7 host nation in 2023, including its coordination among G7 members to address economic coercion, as well as the announcement of the G7 AI Principles and Code of Conduct, and focus on support for Ukraine;

(12) calls for continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in promoting our shared democratic values and respect for human rights; and

(13) commits to strengthening and deepening diplomatic, economic, security, and people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 627—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA "JERI" BUSTAMANTE ON THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 627

Whereas Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as "Jeri Bustamante") lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2024, marks 6 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as "Jeri Bustamante");

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 628—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE RISE UP FOR LGBTQI+ YOUTH IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE, A CALL TO ACTION TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO DEMAND EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS, AND FREEDOM FROM ERASURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY LGBTQI+ YOUNG PEOPLE, IN K-12 SCHOOLS

Mr. SCHATZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 628

Whereas young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free from transphobia, homophobia, racism, sexism, and ableism in K-12 schools;

Whereas K-12 schools must be safe and inclusive learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and people with disabilities and those who are from communities that experience marginalization;

Whereas, for more than 2 decades, Congress has supported a resolution for a National Day of Silence, and, for a decade, Congress has supported a resolution for No Name-Calling Week;

Whereas advocates have designated 2024 to 2025 as a time for communities to support the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative in support of LGBTQI+ young people in schools by building on the goals of National Day of (No) Silence and No Name-Calling Week to create a sustained call to action to demand equal educational opportunities, basic civil rights protections, and freedom from erasure for all students;

Whereas LGBTQI+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying and harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline that increases the likelihood they will enter the school-to-prison pipeline;

Whereas over 200 anti-LGBTQI+ education bills have been introduced each year in State legislatures across the country, the majority of which specifically target transgender and nonbinary young people, including—

(1) in Idaho, where on March 30, 2020, Governor Brad Little signed the first bill into law barring transgender students from playing on the school sports teams that correspond with their gender identity;

(2) in 24 additional States that enacted policies between 2021 and 2024 that prohibit transgender students from playing alongside their peers on school sports teams;

(3) in Tennessee, where in 2021, Governor Bill Lee signed a bill that allows any student, parent, or employee to sue if they interact with a transgender person in a school bathroom or other facility; and

(4) in 10 States that, between 2021 and 2024, enacted laws that prevent transgender students from using the school bathroom or locker room that corresponds with their gender identity;

Whereas GLSEN's 2021 National School Climate Survey found that LGBTQI+ students who experienced discrimination on the basis of their LGBTQI+ identity at school in the past year, including being prevented from using the restroom that aligns with their gender identity and being barred from playing on the school sports team that aligns with their gender identity, were nearly 3 times as likely to have missed school in the past month, had lower GPAs, reported lower feelings of school belonging, and had higher levels of depression compared to LGBTQI+ students who had not experienced similar discrimination;

Whereas LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas nearly half of LGBTQI+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year, a trend that increases among Indigenous, Black, and multiracial LGBTQI+ young people;

Whereas the GLSEN's 2021 National School Climate Survey found that, among LGBTQI+ students who said that they were considering dropping out of school, 31.4 percent indicated that they were doing so because of the hostile climate created by gendered school policies and practices;

Whereas States have passed or attempted to pass legislation that erases or censors LGBTQI+ individuals, history, and contributions from classroom literature and curricula, including—

(1) in Florida, where in March 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 1557 into law, censoring instruction related to LGBTQI+ people, commonly referred to as the "Don't Say LGBTQI+" law;

(2) in the 6 additional States that enacted laws between 2022 and 2024 censoring instruction related to LGBTQI+ people;

(3) in Arizona, where in May of 2021, Governor Doug Ducey signed HB 2035, which requires parental consent for a child to learn about topics such as the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), in which the Court held that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples; and

(4) in Arkansas, Florida, Montana, and Tennessee, which in 2021 enacted laws that treat instruction related to LGBTQI+ individuals in history, science, the arts, or any academic class as a sensitive topic that requires parental notification and allows parents to opt their child out of such instruction;

Whereas these laws harm students and force families to consider leaving their homes, as demonstrated in a Williams Institute report, which found that 56 percent of LGBTQI+ parents of students in Florida considered moving out of Florida and 16.5 percent have taken steps to move out of Florida because of HB 1557;

Whereas States have gone farther by specifically targeting transgender students and their families with policies that attack mental health counseling and gender-affirming care for transgender students, including—

(1) in Texas, where in 2022, Governor Greg Abbott issued a directive to the Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate the parents of young people seeking gender-affirming care for child abuse, which purported to require school professionals to report parents who are supportive of their transgender child for investigation; and

(2) the introduction of at least 55 bills in 22 States, since the beginning of the 2024 legislative session, that prohibit or create barriers to the social affirmation of transgender and nonbinary students in schools, such as using a student's chosen name and pronouns, regardless of the risk to the student's safety, health, and well-being;

Whereas 85 percent of transgender and nonbinary young people say that recent debates prompted by State legislation restricting the rights of transgender individuals have negatively impacted their mental health;

Whereas data provided by the Department of Justice shows that the number of reported anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes in schools has increased from 145 reported incidents in 2019 to 251 reported incidents in 2022;

Whereas every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from the fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken away from them;

Whereas young people who develop in positive school climates, free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination, report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes;

Whereas positive school transformation must recognize that safety is too low of a bar and that all communities deserve to be acknowledged and affirmed in schools;

Whereas students and families, educators, and community members in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Montana, Tennessee, Texas, and in all States and territories are advocating for safe and inclusive learning environments that affirm LGBTQI+ young people, particularly those who are transgender, nonbinary, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and people with disabilities;

Whereas affirming policies, such as enumerated anti-bullying protections, gender neutral dress code guidelines, and inclusive learning practices, are proven strategies to address hostile learning environments for all students; and

Whereas we must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools,

particularly those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative in demanding the best possible future for all young people in schools, particularly those who identify as LGBTQI+;

(2) recognizes the contributions of students and families, educators, and community members who participate in the Day of (No) Silence to draw attention to the bullying, harassment, assault, and discrimination faced by LGBTQI+ students; and

(3) encourages each State, territory, and locality to support the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative and adopt laws and policies that prohibit bias-based victimization, exclusion, and erasure.

SENATE RESOLUTION 629—CON-DEMNING THE ARBITRARY ARREST OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF SUCH CITIZENS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 629

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has arbitrarily and cruelly arrested United States citizens under false pretenses in order to extract bargaining leverage on unrelated matters;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas, on March 29, 2023, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and accredited Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich on fraudulent charges of espionage for his reporting on the Russian economy;

Whereas Gershkovich has spent more than one year in pretrial detention in the notorious Lefortovo prison in Moscow, including in isolation with limited access to medical care and attorneys;

Whereas, even during the Cold War, the Soviet Union never held a journalist from the United States for similar long-term detention, with the closest parallel being the 1986 arrest and 13-day detainment of U.S. News and World Report journalist Nicholas Daniloff;

Whereas the Department of State determined on April 10, 2023, that Gershkovich has been wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on December 28, 2018, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen Paul Whelan and later convicted him on June 15, 2020, on fraudulent espionage charges;

Whereas Whelan has spent nearly four years in various high-security jails and labor camps in the Russian Federation, while enduring solitary confinement, forced labor, and the denial of medical care;

Whereas the Department of State determined on April 10, 2023, that Whelan has been

wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation Lynne Tracy publicly stated on March 26, 2024, following Evan Gershkovich's court hearing, "Evan's case is not about evidence, due process, or rule of law. It is about using American citizens as pawns to achieve political ends, as the Kremlin is doing in the case of Paul Whelan";

Whereas, on June 2, 2023, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Alsu Kurmasheva on politically motivated charges of working as a foreign agent and "spreading falsehoods about the Russian military," and who now faces a prison sentence up to 15 years;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly denied consular access, basic medical care, and ordered Kurmasheva to remain in pre-trial detention in prison conditions Kurmasheva described as "inhumane";

Whereas, on August 14, 2021, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and international schoolteacher Marc Fogel for possession of medical marijuana prescribed by his physician, then sentenced him on June 16, 2022, to an excessive 14-year sentence in a Russian labor camp;

Whereas lawyers from the Russian Federation informed Fogel's family that the typical sentence for the offense is five years of probation, and in 2019, the same Russian court sentenced a Russian defendant to eight years in prison for the possession of 1,500 grams of various narcotics;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation sentenced Fogel to punishment vastly disproportionate to the severity of his nonviolent crime, wildly dissimilar to the typical punishments for comparable offenses in the Russian Federation, and clearly motivated by ongoing political tensions between the Russian Federation and the United States;

Whereas, on January 28, 2024, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and amateur ballerina Ksenia Khavana on fraudulent charges of high treason during a visit to the Russian Federation after she donated \$50 to a charity supporting humanitarian aid for Ukraine;

Whereas Khavana has been held in a high-security prison with no access to hot water or heat during winter, and faces a 20-year sentence with limited means of legal defense;

Whereas, on February 17, 2022, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested Brittney Griner on trumped-up charges, kept her in detention for approximately ten months, and eventually released her on December 8, 2022, in exchange for notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout;

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States permanent resident Vladimir Kara-Murza for criticizing renewed invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and resulting ongoing war and the criminality of the Government of the Russian Federation, and sentenced Kara-Murza on April 17, 2023, to a 25-year sentence for "high treason";

Whereas human rights groups in the Russian Federation estimate that the Government of the Russian Federation holds nearly 20,000 political prisoners in Russian jails, including, until his February 2024 death in a Siberian gulag, opposition leader Alexei Navalny;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has kidnapped more than 19,000 Ukrainian children and abducted them to the Russian Federation, resulting in President Vladimir Putin being indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes;