

“Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act”.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 385

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 385, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

S. RES. 589

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 589, a resolution honoring Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy, murdered as a victim of a hate crime for his Palestinian-Muslim identity, in the State of Illinois.

S. RES. 599

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 599, a resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 616, a resolution condemning the treatment of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan and urging his immediate release, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 4132. A bill to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument and expand Joshua Tree National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act.

The Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act would establish a new Chuckwalla National Monument to protect approximately 620,000 acres of public lands, while also expanding Joshua Tree National Park by adding approximately 17,842 acres of previously designated public lands that

were identified as suitable for inclusion in the park by the National Park Service.

The proposed Chuckwalla National Monument's vast desert landscape spanning from the area along Joshua Tree National Park's southern boundary, along Interstate 10 from the eastern Coachella Valley, and all the way to the Colorado River are worthy of permanent protection.

This area has a unique, biodiverse ecosystem; is home to habitats for species like the Chuckwalla lizard and the endangered desert tortoise; and contains critical migration corridors for desert bighorn sheep. This area is also cherished for outdoor recreation activities like hiking and rock climbing.

The lands within the proposed national monument include the homelands of the Iviatim, Nuwu, Pipa Aha Macav, Kwatsaan, and Maara'yam peoples (Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano Nations). Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument would help to protect important spiritual and cultural values tied to the land such as multi-use trail systems established by indigenous peoples, sacred sites and objects, traditional cultural places, geoglyphs, petroglyphs, pictographs, and native plants and wildlife.

I am proud to work to introduce this legislation that would preserve part of California's vast desert landscape, help ensure more equitable access to nature and recreation, protect biodiversity, and preserve decades of cultural riches, particularly for the Tribal governments who have worked so hard to protect this area.

I want to thank Representative RAUL RUIZ of California for leading the House companion and Senator BUTLER for her cosponsorship in the Senate. I look forward to working with our colleagues to pass the Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 642—URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION TO OPPOSE CONFIRMATION OF A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL, IF THE CANDIDATE WAS A FORMER LEADER OF A MEMBER COUNTRY WHICH DID NOT SPEND 2 PERCENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) ON DEFENSE

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. MULLIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 642

Whereas, in 2006, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) first agreed to spend 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense;

Whereas, in 2014, at the NATO Summit in Wales, all member countries once again com-

mitted to maintain or move toward meeting the 2-percent defense spending minimum within 10 years;

Whereas, by 2022, only 11 member countries met the 2-percent minimum, including the United States and the United Kingdom, which were the only 2 major economies;

Whereas, throughout 2023, several countries significantly increased their defense spending, and in 2024, NATO expects 18 member countries to achieve the spending commitment despite historically not being able to fulfill the commitment;

Whereas this commitment is important to not only the defense of all NATO member nations, but also a commitment to the alliance itself; and

Whereas, through the Secretary General's role as the senior officer of the alliance, they must advocate for the fulfillment of the commitment and the continued strength of the alliance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares that the next Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should not be a former leader of a member country that did not spend 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense spending;

(2) emphasizes that the demonstrated ability of countries with economies of all sizes within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to meet the 2-percent defense spending minimum proves that the failure of a member country to meet the commitment is a choice of will and not of circumstance;

(3) acknowledges that it would be hypocritical for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be led by a Secretary General who formerly led an alliance member country that failed to fulfill the 2-percent gross defense spending minimum;

(4) declares that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will never reach its full potential as long as the Secretary General is a member of a country's leadership that did not fulfill its commitment to the Organization; and

(5) urges all member countries to prioritize defense spending and to meet their obligations to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 643—RECOGNIZING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2024 AS THE “MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 643

Whereas brave men and women serve in the Armed Forces and protect the security and freedom of the United States;

Whereas over 1,300,000 active-duty members and nearly 1,000,000 ready-reserve members serve in the Armed Forces;

Whereas there are more than 1,540,000 military-connected children and youth who move, on average, 6 to 9 times during their educational career;

Whereas they encounter unique educational challenges when these children and youth move between public and Department of Defense Education Activity schools;

Whereas the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

was developed in 2007 by the Department of Defense and the Council of State Governments to ease the educational transitions of military-connected students attending public schools and Department of Defense schools worldwide;

Whereas the Compact helps military children and youth stay on grade level and facilitates on-time graduation;

Whereas, while it is not exhaustive in its coverage, the Compact addresses key issues encountered by military families: eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation;

Whereas the Compact uses a comprehensive approach to provide a consistent policy in every school district and member State;

Whereas the Compact Commission, which includes the 50 States and District of Columbia, works tirelessly to recognize that our military-connected children and youth serve too and to pay tribute to their commitment and service to the country; and

Whereas April is the Month of the Military Child, and a month-long salute will encourage our country to support military-connected children and youth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate encourages—

(1) citizens to “Purple Up!” and wear purple to express our appreciation and celebrate the unsung heroes of the Armed Forces; and

(2) all citizens, communities, and business and government leaders across the United States to honor, support, and show appreciation for military-connected children and youth.

SENATE RESOLUTION 644—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 1, 2024, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2024, AS “FAIR CHANCE JOBS MONTH”

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 644

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) nearly 80,000,000 people have a record of arrest or conviction;

(2) an estimated 19,000,000 people have felony convictions;

(3) nearly 13,000,000 people are charged each year with misdemeanor offenses;

(4) 600,000 people are released each year from Federal and State prisons;

(5) Black, Indigenous, and Latino people are 5, 4.2, and 2.4 times more likely than White people to be incarcerated, respectively, and also face higher rates of arrest; and

(6) LGBTQ+ individuals are 3 times more likely to be incarcerated and also face higher rates of arrest;

Whereas people who have been convicted of a crime and served their sentence continue to face consequences after release due to systemic biases and stigmas against formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas recidivism rates in the United States are among the highest in the world, with almost 44 percent of people who are released returning to incarceration within 1 year;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly ⅓ of the formerly incarcerated population is jobless at any given time;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly 14,000 laws and regulations and 48,000 collateral consequences restrict formerly incarcerated

individuals from getting professional licenses needed to work in some jobs;

Whereas 20 States and the District of Columbia allow occupational licensing boards to categorically reject applicants with prior convictions;

Whereas obstacles to employment, such as difficulty obtaining identification needed for employment, add undue burdens on returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas formerly incarcerated individuals earn nearly \$100 less per week than the average worker;

Whereas fair-chance employers can leverage financial incentives, such as the work opportunity tax credit, to benefit from hiring formerly incarcerated individuals;

Whereas employing returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals will result in a robust, vibrant, diverse, and resilient workforce;

Whereas having jobs that pay living wages, are conducive to health, provide opportunities for skillset development, provide opportunities for promotion, and provide benefits will facilitate stable employment and reduce recidivism;

Whereas returning citizens who have received vocational training while incarcerated are 28 percent more likely to obtain employment within 1 year of reentry into society than those lacking such training; and

Whereas, in addition to employment insecurity, returning citizens and formerly incarcerated people face numerous other obstacles to reentry and societal reintegration, including—

(1) housing insecurity and homelessness rates that are 10 times higher than the general public;

(2) near total restrictions in 12 States on access to temporary assistance for needy families established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) or the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); and

(3) greater prevalence of chronic health conditions, lower quality and coverage of health insurance, and mortality rates that are 13 times higher than the general public: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of April 1, 2024, through April 30, 2024, as “Fair Chance Jobs Month”; and

(2) supports efforts to—

(A) ensure that people directly impacted by incarceration obtain stable and high-quality employment, housing, healthcare, and nutrition;

(B) dismantle structural barriers to fair-chance hiring and employment, such as licensing restrictions, employer liability, and insurance restrictions;

(C) expand workforce development programs for returning citizens, formerly incarcerated individuals, and others directly impacted by incarceration, including—

(i) pre-apprenticeship programs;

(ii) registered apprenticeship programs;

(iii) career coaching, resume-building, technology literacy, and other skillset development programs; and

(iv) programs that educate employers on best practices for, and the benefits of, fair-chance hiring;

(D) match jobs providers with returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals seeking jobs;

(E) support efforts from labor unions and worker organizations to engage returning citizens and formerly incarcerated individuals who are seeking jobs;

(F) publicize work opportunities that are open to applicants with prior arrest or conviction records; and

(G) foster greater collaboration and dialogue between Federal, State, and local government agencies, community-based organizations, advocacy groups, employers, labor unions, currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, and others directly impacted by incarceration to enhance fair-chance hiring and employment and help to heal communities impacted by mass incarceration.

SENATE RESOLUTION 645—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 20 THROUGH APRIL 28, 2024, AS “NATIONAL PARK WEEK”

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BENNET, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. COTTON, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 645

Whereas, on March 1, 1872, Congress established Yellowstone National Park as the first national park for the enjoyment of the people of the United States;

Whereas, on August 25, 1916, Congress established the National Park Service with the mission to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations;

Whereas the National Park Service continues to protect and manage the majestic landscapes, hallowed battlefields, and iconic cultural and historical sites of the United States;

Whereas the units of the National Park System can be found in every State and many territories of the United States, and many of those units embody the rich natural and cultural heritage of the United States, reflect a unique national story through people and places, and offer countless opportunities for recreation, volunteerism, cultural exchange, education, civic engagement, and exploration;

Whereas, in 2023, the national parks of the United States attracted nearly 325,500,000 recreational visits, an increase of 4 percent over 2022 visitation levels;

Whereas visits and visitors to the national parks of the United States are important economic drivers, responsible for contributing \$50,300,000,000 in spending to the national economy in 2022;

Whereas the dedicated employees of the National Park Service carry out their mission to protect the units of the National