

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 540—REQUESTING INFORMATION ON AZERBAIJAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES PURSUANT TO SECTION 502B(C) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 540

*Resolved,*

## SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON AZERBAIJAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

(a) STATEMENT REQUESTED.—The Senate requests that the Secretary of State, not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), a statement, prepared in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Office of the Legal Adviser, regarding Azerbaijan's human rights practices.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The statement submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) All available information about the observance and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Azerbaijan, including information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Government of Azerbaijan, including—

- (A) unlawful or arbitrary killings;
- (B) torture;
- (C) cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of detainees;
- (D) political prisoners;
- (E) arbitrary arrest or detention;
- (F) the displacement of ethnic Armenians from Nagorno Karabakh;
- (G) restrictions on freedom of assembly, association, and movement;
- (H) pervasive problems with the independence of the judiciary;
- (I) forced disappearances;
- (J) serious restrictions on freedom of speech, expression, and the media;
- (K) severe restrictions on political participation;
- (L) discrimination against women and gender-based violence;
- (M) restrictions on religious freedom;
- (N) serious restrictions on internet freedom;
- (O) existence of the worst forms of child labor; and
- (P) destruction of religious and cultural sites.

(2) A description of the steps that the United States Government has taken—

(A) to promote respect for and observance of human rights in Azerbaijan and by the Government of Azerbaijan, including in the context of the conflict with Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh);

(B) to discourage any practices in Azerbaijan that are inimical to internationally recognized human rights; and

(C) to publicly or privately call attention to, and disassociate the United States and any security assistance provided for the Government of Azerbaijan from, any practices described in subparagraph (B).

(3) An assessment from the Secretary of State, notwithstanding any practices described in paragraph (2)(B), whether extraordinary circumstances exist that necessitate a continuation of security assistance for Azerbaijan.

(4) If such circumstances exist, a description of the circumstances and the extent to which security assistance should be continued (subject to such conditions as Congress may impose under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304)).

(5) Other information, including—

(A) an assessment from the Secretary of State of the likelihood that United States security assistance (as defined in section 502B(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d))) has or will be used in support of Azerbaijani activities related to the conflict with Armenia, aggression against Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), and the blockade of the Lachin Corridor;

(B) a description and assessment of the actions that the United States Government is taking to ensure end use monitoring protocols for all weapons sold or transferred to Azerbaijan;

(C) an assessment of the impact of United States assistance provided to Azerbaijan over the past 10 years has had on the balance of power between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and on efforts to negotiate a durable and lasting peace settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan;

(D) a description of the United States Government's efforts in Azerbaijan to adhere to the prohibitions in section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) and section 362 of title 10, United States Code, against the provision of foreign assistance to security units against which there are credible allegations of human rights violations (commonly referred to as the "Leahy laws") and to ensure that no units implicated in gross violations of human rights receive United States assistance, including information on which units have been rejected in the Leahy vetting process;

(E) an assessment from the Secretary of State of whether ethnic cleansing or genocidal acts have taken or are taking place in Nagorno-Karabakh; and

(F) a determination, within 30 days of passage of this resolution, as to whether Azerbaijani officials found to be responsible for or complicit in, or to have directly or indirectly engaged in, human rights abuses listed in paragraph (1) meet the criteria for sanctions and—

(i) a description of any actions that the United States Government is taking to implement sanctions, including sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) and section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020 (division G of Public Law 116-94; 133 Stat. 2864), to hold accountable Azerbaijani officials responsible for gross violations of human rights or significant corruption; or

(ii) a justification for why sanctions have not been imposed on individuals found to meet the criteria for sanctions under existing law.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 541—SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING ON FEBRUARY 1, 2024, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND OPPOSITION TO, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. BUTLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 541

Whereas the United States abolished the transatlantic slave trade in 1808 and abolished chattel slavery and prohibited involuntary servitude in 1865;

Whereas, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting individual freedom, there is a national imperative to eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery, which is commonly considered to mean—

(1) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of an individual through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjecting that individual to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; or

(2) the inducement of a commercial sex act by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the individual induced to perform that act is younger than 18 years of age;

Whereas forced labor and human trafficking generates revenues of at least \$150,000,000 annually worldwide, and there are an estimated 50,000,000 victims of human trafficking and modern slavery across the globe;

Whereas victims of human trafficking are difficult to identify and are subject to manipulation, force, fraud, coercion, and abuse;

Whereas children and youths experiencing homelessness are vulnerable and susceptible to manipulation, making them a prime target for the lucrative criminal industry of human trafficking;

Whereas the Department of Justice has reported that human trafficking and modern slavery has been reported and investigated in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the Department of State has reported that the top 3 countries of origin of federally identified human trafficking victims in the United States in fiscal year 2021 were the United States, Mexico, and Honduras;

Whereas, to help businesses in the United States combat child labor and forced labor in global supply chains, the Department of Labor has identified 159 goods from 78 countries that are made by child labor and forced labor;

Whereas, since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 82,301 situations of human trafficking involving 164,839 victims;

Whereas there are known risk factors that contribute to youths running away, including domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and neglect, and runaway youths who experience homelessness are potential targets for human trafficking;

Whereas, in 2023, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received over 18,400 reports of possible child sex trafficking;

Whereas, of the more than 28,800 missing children reported to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2023, 1 in 6 were likely victims of child sex trafficking;

Whereas today, the average age of child sex trafficking victims reported missing to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is only 15 years old;

Whereas youth experiencing homelessness experience high rates of human trafficking, and 1 in 5 homeless youths is a victim of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, or both;

Whereas 22 percent of youths who experience homelessness were approached for paid sex on their first night of homelessness;

Whereas LGBTQ youths are disproportionately affected, accounting for 33.8 percent of sex trafficking victims;

Whereas youths facing homelessness have a lower probability of being trafficked if they have a supportive adult in their life;

Whereas the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services reports that American Indian, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander women and girls have a heightened risk for sex trafficking;

Whereas the Department of Justice found that studies on the topic of human trafficking of American Indians and Alaska Natives suggest there are—

(1) high rates of sexual exploitation of Native women and girls;

(2) gaps in data and research on trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native victims; and

(3) barriers that prevent law enforcement agencies and victim service providers from identifying and responding appropriately to Native victims;

Whereas, according to the Government Accountability Office, from fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2016, there were only 14 Federal investigations and 2 Federal prosecutions of human trafficking offenses in Indian country;

Whereas, to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in the United States and globally, the people of the United States, the Federal Government, and State, Tribal, and local governments must be—

(1) aware of the realities of human trafficking and modern slavery; and

(2) dedicated to stopping the horrific enterprise of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas the United States should hold accountable all individuals, groups, organizations, governments, and countries that support, advance, or commit acts of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas, through education, the United States must also work to end human trafficking and modern slavery in all forms in the United States and around the world;

Whereas victims of human trafficking deserve a trauma-informed approach that integrates the pursuit of justice and provision of social services designed to help them escape, and recover from, the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma they endured;

Whereas combating human trafficking requires a whole-of-government effort that rests on a unified and coordinated response among Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies and that places equal value on the prevention of trafficking, the identification and stabilization of victims, and the investigation and prosecution of traffickers;

Whereas laws to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking and to assist and protect victims of human trafficking and modern slavery have been enacted in the United States, including—

(1) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.);

(2) title XII of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4; 127 Stat. 136);

(3) the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129 Stat. 227);

(4) sections 910 and 914(e) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125; 130 Stat. 239 and 274);

(5) section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114);

(6) the Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-392; 132 Stat. 5250);

(7) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-393; 132 Stat. 5265);

(8) the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-425; 132 Stat. 5472);

(9) the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-427; 132 Stat. 5503);

(10) the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-103; 136 Stat. 840);

(11) the Abolish Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-347; 136 Stat. 6199);

(12) the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-348; 136 Stat. 6211); and

(13) the End Human Trafficking in Government Contracts Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-211; 136 Stat. 2248);

Whereas the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129 Stat. 227) established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to provide a formal platform for survivors of human trafficking to advise and make recommendations on Federal anti-trafficking policies to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established by the President;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration issued a final rule (80 Fed. Reg. 4967) to implement Executive Order 13627, entitled “Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts”, that clarifies the policy of the United States on combating trafficking in persons as outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation by strengthening the prohibition on contractors from charging employee recruitment fees;

Whereas, although such laws and regulations are currently in force, it is essential to increase public awareness, particularly among individuals who are most likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, regarding conditions and dynamics of human trafficking and modern slavery, precisely because traffickers use techniques that are designed to severely limit self-reporting and evade law enforcement;

Whereas January 1 is the anniversary of the effective date of the Emancipation Proclamation;

Whereas February 1 is—

(1) the anniversary of the date on which President Abraham Lincoln signed the joint resolution sending the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to the States for ratification to forever declare, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction”; and

(2) a date that has long been celebrated as National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code; and

Whereas, under the authority of Congress to enforce the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States “by appropriate legislation”, Congress, through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), updated the post-Civil

War involuntary servitude and slavery statutes and adopted an approach of victim protection, vigorous prosecution, and prevention of human trafficking, commonly known as the “3P” approach: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate supports—

(1) observing National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on February 1, 2024, to recognize the vital role that the people of the United States have in ending human trafficking and modern slavery;

(2) marking the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities, culminating in the observance on February 1, 2024, of National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code;

(3) urging continued partnerships with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, as well as survivors of human trafficking, social service providers, and nonprofit organizations to address human trafficking with a collaborative, victim-centered approach; and

(4) all other efforts to prevent, eradicate, and raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT REGARDING HIGH-POTENCY MARIJUANA

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

### S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas the use of high-potency marijuana has become increasingly prevalent across the United States;

Whereas the average potency of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (commonly known as “THC”), the major psychoactive component in marijuana, increased by 287 percent between 1995 and 2021, from 3.96 percent potency to 15.34 percent potency;

Whereas adolescent and teen marijuana abuse increased by 245 percent from 2000 to 2020;

Whereas the perceived risk of weekly marijuana use decreased from 47.5 percent to 27.4 percent among adolescents in the past decade;

Whereas cannabis use disorder among teens increased by 25 percent after the enactment of recreational marijuana legalization;

Whereas increased potency levels correspond with greater health risks, with research showing that daily use of THC with a potency greater than 15 percent results in a 5 times increased risk of psychosis;

Whereas only 3 States have enacted potency caps on marijuana flower or concentrates;

Whereas the use of high-potency marijuana has been linked to potential adverse health effects, including mental health disorders and cognitive impairment;

Whereas education and awareness programs are essential to inform the public about the potential risks associated with the use of high-potency marijuana; and

Whereas a bipartisan effort is necessary to develop evidence-based policies to address the increasing prevalence of high-potency marijuana: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*