

SENATE RESOLUTION 699—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 12 THROUGH MAY 18, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 699

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach their potential for academic success;

Whereas high-quality public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for the children of those families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high-performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held accountable by the authorizers of the public charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set high expectations for students to ensure that the public charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 45 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico have public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2021 to 2022 school year, approximately 8,000 public charter schools served approximately 3,700,000 children in the United States;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 660,000 students in 2002, to 3,700,000 students in 2021, a more than five-fold increase in 20 years;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 270 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in at least 26 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas high-quality public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2023 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students from low-income backgrounds in public charter schools, and when compared to peers in traditional public schools, each year, those students completed the equivalent of 16 more days of learning in reading and 6 more days of learning in math; and

Whereas the 25th Annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 12 through May 18, 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, leaders, and staff of public charter schools across the United States for—

(A) making ongoing contributions to public education;

(B) making impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly in schools with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system throughout the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 25th Annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 12 through May 18, 2024, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for high-quality public charter schools.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that DeMark Schulze, a State Department Pearson fellow from my office and a 2005 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, be granted floor privileges until August 3, 2024.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4361

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4361) making emergency supplemental appropriations for border security and combatting fentanyl for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHATZ. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 695, S. Res. 696, S. Res. 697, S. Res. 698, and S. Res. 699.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m., Monday, May 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lanham nomination; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHATZ. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator LANKFORD.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oklahoma.

BORDER ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, can I just recap for this body. Starting in last October, a group of us sat down to have a serious conversation about the border.

We had a Democrat Senator from Connecticut, CHRIS MURPHY; we had an Independent Senator, KYRSTEN SINEMA, from Arizona; and a conservative Senator from Oklahoma.

We all understood the problem is serious, and there are very real threats to our national security, our economy. It was spiraling out of control on the border.

October was the highest month ever in the history of our country. November was the highest number ever in the history of our country. December was the highest number ever in the history

of our country, with the largest day of illegal crossings in the history of our country, in December, of 12,000 people in a single day. Things were spiraling out of control at the border, and they continued.

So we sat down in a serious conversation and said we had differences of how to be able to resolve this, but we all want to be able to fix this. So we spent months trying to be able to hammer out a resolution.

It was a serious dialogue that we hoped to be able to get to a conclusion, but we failed to do that. We created a bill that, I felt like, was a great bill with common ground in it. It didn't have everything that I wanted in it, but it did have the essentials in it to be able to change the way we do asylum, to be able to change the processing. It literally took it from the very first person that crossed the border each day would be detained, quickly screened, and then deported—the very first person.

If we had a caravan of up to 5,000 people across the day, we can't control that; so in that situation, instead of detaining, quickly screening, and deporting, we would just detain and deport, because there was no time to do the screening. We weren't going to release people in; we were going to turn people around.

It changed the structure dramatically from what was happening on the border. I felt like this was a good bill to be able to move forward, and I moved in good faith to be able to get that done.

But it is also well-known here that I had disagreements, some within my own party—the majority within my own party—that said this is not the time to be able to resolve this. It is what it is.

It is the political nature of what is going on right now. I understand that. But the problem is still unresolved.

Yesterday, we had 5,500 people that illegally crossed the border yesterday—yesterday.

Last month, we had 174,000 people that illegally crossed our border last month. That would have been the highest month ever—in fact, it would have been the highest month in the past 20 years if it wasn't for the last 3 years under the Biden administration. It would have been higher than any month under President Obama, under President Bush, under President Trump. It would have been higher than any of those months, but it doesn't beat even the records that were even set in the previous months before under the Biden administration because of their dramatic change in policy.

That 1.5 million people now illegally cross the border this fiscal year—1.5 million people. And they continue to be able to come across our border with almost no restraint.

I have said for a long time, this is a serious issue that we need to address. My own party has said this was not the time to be able to do that.

Now I am hearing rumors that next week, the folks I was sitting down with to be able to have serious dialogue to fix it may bring bills back up again and to say: Let's do a political thing on the other side of the aisle.

Listen, if we are going to solve the border issues, it is not going to be by doing competing messaging bills. If we are going to solve this, let's sit down like adults and let's figure out how we are going to actually resolve this together.

If there is a messaging bill that comes back—even the bill that I helped negotiate—next week just to bring it up again to try to be able to poke Republicans in the eye for some sort of messaging piece, why are we doing this? All the American people see it.

Everybody sees this is political, but everyone in the country also sees: Why don't you guys and ladies fix this instead? Why don't you actually resolve it?

There are a couple of quotes that have come out lately. My Democratic colleagues have put out a memo, and this was the memo, saying:

TOM SVOZZI flipped the script on his Republican opponent, successfully painting her as unserious about border security because of her opposition to the bipartisan border bill, and turned what could have been a devastating political liability into an advantage. Democrats should learn a lesson from NY-03. Quite simply, we risk losing the 2024 election if we do not seize this opportunity to go on offense on the issue of the border and turn the tables on Republicans on a key fall voting issue.

Senator SCHUMER put out a statement or he made this statement saying:

It's a win if Republicans abandon us at the last minute, because if Democrats could put together a tough, bipartisan border bill on border, it would not take border away as an issue for the Republicans, but it would at least give us a 50-50 chance to combat it.

Listen, I understand the politics of the moment. I do. We are in a Presidential election year. Everybody in America is watching what is happening on the border and saying something needs to be fixed. And it is easy for Republicans to look at the White House and to say there are 94 executive orders that the White House has proactively done that changed how the border was enforced under President Trump and under President Obama. OK? A high number—a high number—under President Obama was 2,000 people in a day. Yesterday, we had 5,500 people.

If President Biden would just enforce the border the same way President Obama did, much less the same way President Trump did, the border would be very different. Everybody sees that.

Everybody also sees that we need a change in the way we do asylum policy. That is a change that has to be done in Congress. That is a vote that we would have to be able to take.

So instead of us pointing at each other and doing political stunts, let's solve this. Let's actually sit down and figure out how we are going to resolve