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PROMOTING A RESOLUTION TO THE TIBET-CHINA DISPUTE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 367, S. 138.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 138) to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It has been the long-standing policy of the United States to encourage meaningful and direct dialogue between representatives of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community, without preconditions, to seek a settlement that resolves differences.

(2) Nine rounds of dialogue held between 2002 and 2010 between the People's Republic of China authorities and the 14th Dalai Lama's representatives failed to produce a settlement that resolved differences, and the two sides have held no formal dialogue since January 2010.

(3) An obstacle to further dialogue is that the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to impose conditions on substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama, including a demand that he say that Tibet has been part of China since ancient times, which the Dalai Lama has refused to do because it is inaccurate.

(4) Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provide, “All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.”

(5) The United States Government has never taken the position that Tibet was a part of China since ancient times.

(6) China signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on October 5, 1998, and ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on March 27, 2001.

(7) Under international law, including United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2625, the right to self-determination is the right of a people to determine its own destiny and the exercise of this right can result in a variety of outcomes ranging from independence, federation, protection, some form of autonomy, or full integration within a State.

(8) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 1723, adopted on December 20, 1961, called for the “cessation of practices which deprive the Tibetan people of their fundamental human rights and freedoms, including their right to self-determination”.

(9) Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a May 26, 2022, speech entitled “The Administration's Approach to the People's Republic of China”, said that the rules-based international

order's “founding documents include the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which enshrined concepts like self-determination, sovereignty, the peaceful settlement of disputes. These are not Western constructs. They are reflections of the world's shared aspirations.”.

(10) The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note), as amended by the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 (subtitle E of title III of division FF of Public Law 116–260), in directing the United States Government “to promote the human rights and distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people” acknowledges that the Tibetan people possess a distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity.

(11) Department of State reports on human rights and religious freedom have consistently documented systematic repression by the authorities of the People's Republic of China against Tibetans as well as acts of defiance and resistance by Tibetan people against the People's Republic of China policies.

(12) The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) specifies that the central objective of the United States Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues is to promote substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) that the Tibetan people are a people with a distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity;

(2) that the dispute between Tibet and the People's Republic of China must be resolved in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Charter, by peaceful means, through dialogue without preconditions;

(3) that the People's Republic of China should cease its propagation of disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama;

(4) to encourage the People's Republic of China to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and uphold all its commitments under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and

(5) in accordance with the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020—

(A) to promote substantive dialogue without preconditions, between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama, his or her representatives, or democratically elected leaders of the Tibetan community, or explore activities to improve prospects for dialogue, that leads to a negotiated agreement on Tibet;

(B) to coordinate with other governments in multilateral efforts towards the goal of a negotiated agreement on Tibet; and

(C) to encourage the Government of the People's Republic of China to address the aspirations of the Tibetan people with regard to their distinct historical, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) claims made by officials of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party that Tibet has been a part of China since ancient times are historically inaccurate;

(2) the current policies of the People's Republic of China are systematically suppressing the ability of the Tibetan people to preserve their religion, culture, language, history, way of life, and environment;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China is failing to meet the expectations of the United States to engage in meaningful dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives or to reach a negotiated resolution that includes the aspirations of the Tibetan people; and

(4) United States public diplomacy efforts should counter disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama.

SEC. 5. MODIFICATIONS TO THE TIBETAN POLICY ACT OF 2002.

(a) TIBET NEGOTIATIONS.—Section 613(b) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) efforts to counter disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama.”.

(b) UNITED STATES SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR TIBETAN ISSUES.—Section 621(d) of the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) work with relevant bureaus of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to ensure that United States Government statements and documents counter, as appropriate, disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama.”.

(c) DEFINITION.—The Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 622. DEFINITION.

“For purposes of this Act, the term ‘Tibet’ refers to the following areas:

“(1) The Tibet Autonomous Region.

“(2) The areas that the Government of the People's Republic of China designated as Tibetan Autonomous, as of 2018, as follows:

“(A) Kailuo (Gannan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and Pari (Tianzhu) Tibetan Autonomous County located in Gansu Province.

“(B) Golug (Guoluo) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Malho (Huangnan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsojang (Haibei) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsolho (Hainan) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Tsonub (Hairi) Mongolian and Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, and Yulshul (Yushu) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, located in Qinghai Province.

“(C) Garze (Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Ngawa (Aba) Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture, and Muli (Mili) Tibetan Autonomous County, located in Sichuan Province.

“(D) Dechen (Diqing) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, located in Yunnan Province.”.

SEC. 6. AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS TO COUNTER DISINFORMATION ABOUT TIBET.

Amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available under section 346 of the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020 (subtitle E of title III of division FF of Public Law 116–260) are authorized to be made available to counter disinformation about Tibet from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about the history of Tibet, the Tibetan people, and Tibetan institutions, including that of the Dalai Lama.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

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

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 706, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 706) recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 706) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 707, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 707) recognizing the significance of Jewish American Heritage Month as a time to celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to the society and culture of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 707) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE GILA WILDERNESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 708, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 708) commemorating the 100th anniversary of the designation of the Gila Wilderness.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 708) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, as amended, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 118th Congress: the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of May as Jewish American Heritage Month. Please, if we could just acknowledge that through the resolution that was passed by this body.

Since 1980, when President Jimmy Carter first celebrated Jewish Amer-

ican Heritage Week, our country has come together to recognize Jewish contributions to American culture, history, military, science, government, and more. Over the course of 250 years, since before the Revolutionary War, Jewish-American values and culture have been woven into the fabric of our Nation.

We in the Congress of the United States, despite our political differences, have historically stood united in our support for the Jewish community. This position aligns with our Nation's founding commitment to safeguard the right to worship free of persecution.

Countless Members in this body on both sides of the aisle have quoted George Washington's letter from 1790 to the Hebrew congregation in Newport, RI, in which our first President wrote:

For happily the government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

Jewish-American heritage commemorations have always shared a mix of celebration—with the anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel—with darker memories and commemorations, such as Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah.

This month, we also honor the victims of the Holocaust and lift up the lives of the survivors, nearly 40,000 of whom live in the United States. These men and women came to this country seeking refuge from unimaginable horrors. They have enriched our Nation and made us stronger.

We have an obligation to provide Holocaust survivors the community support and special services they need to live out their final days, and we must do all we can to ensure their stories are never forgotten.

The split screen between Jewish-American accomplishments and somber reflections is even more intense this year as war continues between Hamas and Israel.

As an American Jew, I can tell you that there is a level of trepidation and fear that has mushroomed throughout the American-Jewish community since the deadly attacks of October 7 by Hamas. In the wake of this horrific terrorism, anti-Semitic activities have soared, with documented verbal and physical threats against Jews in the United States and around the world.

I am pleased to say that, along with the President, majorities in Congress are taking steps and not sitting idly by. Earlier this month, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act. This bill codifies the U.S. Department of Education's need to consider the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of "anti-Semitism" when enforcing Federal anti-discrimination laws. This legislation meets the seriousness of this moment