

Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader and jointly with the Speaker of the House, pursuant to Public Law 117-263, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as Co-Chairperson of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: The Honorable BILL HAGERTY of Tennessee (Co-Chairperson).

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 4447

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. 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. 4447) to allow women greater access to safe and effective oral contraceptive drugs intended for routine use, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on Federal funding of contraceptive methods.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 719, S. Res. 720, S. Res. 721, S. Res. 722, S. Res. 723, S. Res. 724.

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

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that 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.")

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF EVAN GERSHKOVICH

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 378, S. Res. 385.

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. 385) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 385) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 28 (legislative day of September 22), 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE
RELEASE OF MARC FOGEL

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 380, S. Con. Res. 18.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the continuing resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A continuing resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) calling for the immediate release of Marc Fogel, a United States citizen and teacher, who was given an unjust and disproportionate criminal sentence by the Government of the Russian Federation in June 2022.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the continuing resolution, 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:

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas United States citizen Marc Fogel has lived a life of service, teaching history at international schools in Colombia, Malaysia, Oman, Venezuela, and Russia for 35 years;

Whereas Marc Fogel taught at the Anglo-American School of Moscow from 2012 to 2021, honorably serving the children of United States diplomats and members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas Marc Fogel is known to his family, friends, colleagues, and students as a

kind, personable, upbeat, and giving man, a loving father, and a passionate and dedicated teacher;

Whereas Marc Fogel has undergone three back surgeries, a spinal fusion, a hip replacement, and two knee surgeries to correct various injuries and health issues, which have left him with chronic back pain and a permanent limp;

Whereas Marc Fogel did not wish to use opioids to manage his pain and was instead prescribed medical marijuana for pain management in a manner consistent with the State law of Pennsylvania;

Whereas, on August 14, 2021, as he returned to Russia for one final year of teaching before his intended retirement, Marc Fogel was arrested in the Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow for carrying about half an ounce of medical marijuana in his luggage;

Whereas Marc Fogel has stated he intended that marijuana solely for personal consumption, and the Government of the Russian Federation has presented no evidence to the contrary;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, a Russian court convicted Marc Fogel of "large-scale drugs smuggling" in a politicized show trial and sentenced him to 14 years in a maximum-security penal colony in Russia;

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

Whereas Marc Fogel's sentence is vastly disproportionate to the severity of his non-violent crime, wildly dissimilar to the typical punishments for comparable offenses in Russia, and clearly motivated by ongoing political tensions between Russia and the United States;

Whereas, in August 2022, Russian courts denied Marc Fogel's appeal of his sentence;

Whereas the 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Russia issued by the Department of State reported, "Conditions in prisons and detention centers . . . were often harsh and life threatening. Overcrowding, abuse by guards and inmates, limited access to health care, food shortages, and inadequate sanitation were common";

Whereas Marc Fogel turns 62 years old in July 2023, and his physical and mental health is rapidly declining due to the stress and harsh conditions of his detention, such that his family fears he will not survive his sentence; and

Whereas the Department of State requested Marc Fogel be released from Russian custody on humanitarian grounds, but received no response to that request: Now, therefore, be it

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

That Congress—

(1) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Marc Fogel, who has already served more time in prison than his minor and nonviolent crimes can justify;

(2) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to respect Marc Fogel's human rights and to provide full, unfettered, and consistent consular access to Marc Fogel while he remains in detention, in accordance with its international obligations;

(3) urges all United States executive branch officials, including relevant officials at the Department of State and the White House, to raise the case of Marc Fogel and to press for his immediate release in all interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation;

(4) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to desist from issuing outlandishly disproportionate criminal sentences to nonviolent United States nationals;

(5) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation's continued use of detentions and prosecutions of citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States for political purposes;

(6) calls for the immediate release of other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States who are wrongfully and unlawfully detained in Russia, such as Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, Ksenia Khavanna, Alsu Kurmasheva, and Vladimir Kara-Murza; and

(7) expresses sympathy for and solidarity with the families of all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained abroad for the personal hardship experienced as a result of the arbitrary and baseless detention of their loved ones.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the concurrent resolution be agreed to; the concurrent resolution, as amended, 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 committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

PATRIOT BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3237 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3237) to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to ensure claimants are adequately informed regarding filing a Federal cause of action.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I ask unanimous consent that the Tillis amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; 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.

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

The amendment (No. 2072) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Patriot Bill of Rights".

SEC. 2. INFORMATION REGARDING VETERANS' BENEFITS TO VETERANS BRINGING FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION RELATING TO WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—

“(1) GUIDANCE AND ADVICE SERVICES.—A veteran, or the legal representative of a veteran, bringing a cause of action under subsection (b) shall sign a written acknowledgment, provided by the attorney, indicating that the veteran or legal representative bringing the action understands that the veteran or legal representative may seek guidance and advice on any disability awards, payments, or benefits, in addition to and separate from rights provided under this Act, to which the veteran may be entitled under any program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, free of charge from—

“(A) organizations recognized under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code;

“(B) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

“(C) the congressional representatives of the individual or legal representative.

“(2) APPLICATION TO PENDING MATTERS.—For any cause of action brought under subsection (b) that is pending on the date of enactment of this subsection, not later than 90 days after such date of enactment, the veteran bringing the action, the legal representative of the veteran, or the attorney for the veteran or legal representative, as applicable, shall file the acknowledgments described in paragraph (1).”

(b) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of the amendment made by subsection (a), or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of the amendment made by subsection (a), the other provisions of the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.), and the application of the provision of the amendment made by subsection (a) held to be unconstitutional to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected thereby.

The bill (S. 3237), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Pipe nomination postcloture.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I move that it stand adjourned.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:04 p.m., stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

KARLA M. CAMPBELL, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE JANE BRANSTETTER STRANCH, RETIRING.

CATHERINE HENRY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE EDWARD G. SMITH, DECEASED.

MARY KAY LANTHIER, OF VERMONT, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF VERMONT, VICE GEOFFREY W. CRAWFORD, RETIRING.

JULIA M. LIPEZ, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, VICE WILLIAM J. KAYATTA, JR., RETIRING.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF ARMY RESERVE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7038:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT D. HARTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601, 7037, AND 7064:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH B. BERGER III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 7037 AND 7064:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT A. BORCHERDING

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JETH B. REY

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MELVIN G. CARTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BENJAMIN T. WATSON

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 4, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

TANYA MONIQUE JONES BOSIER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

CHRISTOPHER T. HANSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2029.