

BOOKER, Mr. COONS, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 145

Whereas, since October 2023, the Iranian regime has increasingly acted as the epicenter of terrorism in the region, from supporting proxies that vehemently oppose peace in the Middle East, to threatening commercial shipping and free trade in the Red Sea and from targeting American forces in the region, to providing missile and drones to rogue actors, all of which pose serious risks to regional peace and security and endanger the vital interests of the United States;

Whereas the downfall of dictator Bashar al-Assad—a key ally of the Iranian regime—exposes, but does not diminish, Iran's role as the primary malign actor in the region as it continues to adapt its destabilizing tactics through proxies and illicit influence, and the regime's efforts to sow chaos, undermine regional stability, and threaten United States and allied interests persist and may evolve in unexpected and dangerous way that will demand unwavering vigilance and decisive action to counter their aggression which thwarts movement toward peace and stability in the region;

Whereas Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism today;

Whereas the Iranian people have rejected the regime ruling Iran through several rounds of major demonstrations, engulfing all 31 provinces of Iran calling for change;

Whereas the Iranian regime has resorted to killing, torture, sexual violence, and imprisonment of protesters, and several thousand protesters since 2017 have been killed, and many more have been imprisoned;

Whereas, in the first 4 months of Masoud Pezeshkian's presidency, the judiciary of the Iranian regime has executed over 500 prisoners, including political prisoners and at least 17 women, sometimes publicly, and has increased the use of hand amputation as punishment;

Whereas the Iranian regime has been intent on eliminating the Iranian political refugees who survived Tehran's repression and were first based in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, in the mid-1980s;

Whereas, starting in 2012, the United States Government and the United Nations initiated the relocation of nearly 3,000 Iranian dissidents from Camp Ashraf, Iraq, where they were repeatedly attacked by the Iranian regime's proxies, and facilitated their gradual relocation in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to Albania;

Whereas the relocation of these Iranian political refugees to Albania from Iraq was completed in September 2016, and the refugees, a third of them women, are now residing in Ashraf-3 near Tirana in Albania;

Whereas, on April 19, 2016, before the relocation of the majority of the residents to Albania, in a letter to a European Parliament Vice-President, the Prime Minister of Albania wrote, "Albania is fully engaged and committed to ensure for the Iranian refugees all rights stipulated in the Geneva Convention 1951, in the European Human Rights Convention and in the whole international legislation.";

Whereas over 900 women and men of Ashraf-3 are former political prisoners who endured torture while in prisons and many of them are witnesses of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and other political killings in Iran, among them eyewitnesses of crimes committed by Ebrahim Raisi;

Whereas these witnesses must be fully protected for potential testimonies before international courts investigating the 1988 mas-

sacre and other grave human rights violations in Iran;

Whereas, in November 2021, the Swedish Judiciary moved the whole court in Stockholm to Albania for 2 weeks to facilitate hearing testimonies of 7 former Iranian political prisoners now residing in Ashraf-3, whose testimony was characterized as critical for a trial related to the 1988 massacre;

Whereas, in December 2023, a Swedish court confirmed the earlier ruling by the lower court of a life sentence for Hamid Noury, implicated in the 1988 massacre where he was an official in Gohardasht Prison;

Whereas the Iranian regime has stepped up terrorist attacks against its opponents and has used blackmail, terror threats, hostage-taking, sham judicial proceedings, and other means of intimidation against western nations to compel them to silence Iranian opponents living abroad;

Whereas, on several occasions, including in the last week of December 2023, the Iranian regime carried out large-scale cyberattacks against Albania to pressure the Government of Albania to undermine or end its hosting of Iranian political refugees;

Whereas experience has shown that any lack of decisiveness or concessions to Tehran only emboldens the Iranian regime for its destructive actions;

Whereas the Iranian regime has, over the past few months, stepped up threats against Ashraf-3, and given what the regime has done since October 7, 2023, far more vigilance on the part of the United States is required to ensure the complete protection and rights of Ashraf-3 residents in Albania;

Whereas, on December 12, 2023, the Iranian regime started sham trials in absentia for 104 veteran members of the Iranian Resistance, who, since years ago, have been primarily based in Europe, including in Albania, to create a phony legal precedent against them and secure their extradition to Iran by misusing INTERPOL Red Notices, impose limitations, or set the stage for terror attacks against them;

Whereas the Iranian regime is doing its utmost through any means to prevent Ashraf-3 residents from speaking up against the regime;

Whereas the leadership role of women in Ashraf-3 has doubly heightened the Iranian regime's misogynous hysteria against the political refugees in Ashraf-3;

Whereas over 4,000 parliamentarians around the world and 130 former world leaders have expressed their support for Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan for the Future of Iran, which calls for the universal right to vote, free elections, a market economy, separation of religion and state, and advocates for gender, religious, and ethnic equality, a foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence, peace in the Middle East, and a nonnuclear republic Iran; and

Whereas, in sharp contrast to Iran's institutionalized misogyny, this Ten-Point platform has adequately addressed women's equality, including "complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural and economic rights. An equal participation of women in political leadership, abolishment of any form of discrimination. The right to choose one's own clothing freely, the right to freely marry and divorce, and to obtain education and employment. Prohibition of all forms of exploitation against women under any pretext."; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Iranian political refugees in Ashraf-3, in rejection of the Iranian regime's demands, must be afforded their fundamental rights of freedom of expression and assembly and legal political activities in Albania;

(2) the United States Government condemns the Iranian regime's threats and nefarious actions against the Government of Albania, including cyberattacks and threats against the Iranian dissidents in Ashraf-3 in Albania;

(3) the United States Government should take prompt and appropriate steps in accordance with international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to help the Government of Albania ensure and uphold all fundamental rights of Ashraf-3 residents within the framework of the above conventions, including the right to life, liberty, security, protection of property, and freedom of expression and assembly;

(4) the United States Government strongly opposes Iran's misuse of the INTERPOL Red Notices to impose restrictions or limitations or set in motion the extradition of Iranian dissidents to Iran; and

(5) the United States Government must continue close and regular cooperation with the Government of Albania and the residents of Ashraf-3 to ensure the complete protection and fundamental rights of Ashraf-3 residents.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—CONDEMNING THE RECENT ACTS OF VIOLENCE, ARSON, AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM COMMITTED THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 146

Whereas, over the last several weeks, law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have reported numerous violent attacks on electric vehicles, car dealerships, and charging stations;

Whereas, the Department of Justice has charged 3 individuals for violent destruction of Tesla properties, including 1 individual who—armed with an assault rifle—threw 8 Molotov cocktails at a Tesla dealership; and

Whereas all acts of violence are entirely unacceptable in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate condemns the horrific acts of violence, arson, and domestic terrorism committed against electric vehicles, car dealerships, and charging stations throughout the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 147—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REMAINS AN INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO PRIVATIZATION

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 147

Whereas the United States Postal Service is a constitutionally mandated service per

article I, section 8, clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is a self-sustaining, independent establishment that does not receive taxpayer funding and relies solely on revenue derived from the sale of postal services and products;

Whereas the United States Postal Service and its more than 630,000 employees are at the center of the \$1,900,000,000,000 mailing industry, which employs more than 7,900,000 Americans;

Whereas the United States Postal Service serves the needs of customers at more than 168,000,000 business and residential addresses every day, maintains an affordable and universal network, and connects the rural, suburban, and urban communities of the United States;

Whereas the United States Postal Service is consistently the highest rated agency of the Federal Government in nonpartisan opinion polls;

Whereas the United States Postal Service employs nearly 73,000 military veterans and is one of the largest employers of veterans in the United States;

Whereas postal employees are dedicated public servants who do more than process and deliver the mail, including serving as the eyes and ears of their communities and often responding first in situations involving health, safety, and crime in their communities;

Whereas privatization of the United States Postal Service would result in higher prices and reduced services for its customers, especially in rural communities; and

Whereas privatization of the United States Postal Service would jeopardize the booming e-commerce sector and cripple a major part of the critical infrastructure of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the United States Postal Service remains an independent establishment of the Federal Government and not subject to privatization.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 148—HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE ALAN K. SIMPSON, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr.

PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 148

Whereas Alan Kooi Simpson (referred to in this preamble as "Senator Simpson") was born in Denver, Colorado, on September 2, 1931, and was raised in Cody, Wyoming;

Whereas Senator Simpson came from a family with a long tradition of public service in Wyoming, which included—

(1) his father, Milward Simpson, who was a U.S. Senator, the Governor of Wyoming, and a member of the Wyoming State Legislature; and

(2) his mother, Lorna Kooi Simpson, who served her community as president of the Red Cross in Cody, Wyoming, and on the local planning commission;

Whereas Senator Simpson graduated from Cody High School in Cody, Wyoming, in 1949, earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wyoming in 1954, and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1958;

Whereas, after graduating from college, Senator Simpson served as a Second Lieutenant in the Army from 1954 to 1956, where he was stationed in Germany with the 10th Infantry regiment of the 5th Infantry Division and the 12th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 2nd Armored Division;

Whereas, on June 21, 1954, Senator Simpson married Ann Schroll, whom he met while studying at the University of Wyoming, and together, they—

(1) built a remarkable partnership of love, devotion, and respect;

(2) raised their 3 children, Bill, Colin, and Susan; and

(3) enjoyed spending time, as proud grandparents, with Mackenzie, Nicholas, Eric, Beth, Fiona, and Aidan;

Whereas, after being admitted to the Wyoming bar and the United States District Court for the District of Wyoming in 1958, Senator Simpson—

(1) served as a Wyoming Assistant Attorney General;

(2) practiced law with his father, Milward Simpson, and later with Charles G. Kepler, in the law firm of Simpson, Kepler and Simpson in Cody, Wyoming; and

(3) served as the City Attorney for Cody, Wyoming;

Whereas, starting in 1965, Senator Simpson began a distinguished career of elected public service on behalf of the people of Wyoming, including serving —

(1) in the Wyoming House of Representatives from 1965 to 1978, where he served as majority whip, majority floor leader, and the speaker pro tempore; and

(2) in the U.S. Senate from 1979 to 1997, where he served as Senate Majority Whip from 1985 to 1987, and Senate Minority Whip from 1987 to 1995;

Whereas, from 1981 to 1985, and from 1995 to 1997, Senator Simpson served as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate;

Whereas, during his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator Simpson was focused on—

(1) securing United States borders and addressing illegal immigration;

(2) championing the brave veterans who answered the call and made sacrifices for their country;

(3) entitlement reform; and

(4) addressing the soaring national debt;

Whereas Senator Simpson was appointed by President Obama to be co-chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform in 2010, and Senator Simpson and Erskine Bowles were presented the Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government for their work on that Commission;

Whereas, in July 2022, Senator Simpson received the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas Senator Simpson was passionate about—

(1) the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming;

(2) the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, including the Mineta-Simpson Institute at Heart Mountain; and

(3) the University of Wyoming, including the establishment of—

(A) the Alan K. Simpson Center for Clinical and Experiential Learning at the University of Wyoming College of Law; and

(B) the Alan K. Simpson Institute for Western Politics and Leadership at the American Heritage Center;

Whereas Senator Simpson served with integrity, humor, and leadership, and he never wavered in his commitment to his family, the United States, or the State of Wyoming; and

Whereas Senator Simpson was known by many for his courage, quick wit, and legendary storytelling: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson, former Senator for the State of Wyoming; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Senate stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable Alan K. Simpson.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. 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 session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.