

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to promote democracy in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

S. 53

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to fingerprint noncitizen minors entering the United States who are suspected of being victims of human trafficking, to require the Secretary to publicly disclose the number of such minors who are fingerprinted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials and the number of child traffickers who are apprehended by CBP, to impose criminal penalties on noncitizen adults who use unrelated minors to gain entry into the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 93

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 93, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 187

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 187, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 212, a bill to make the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense, and for other purposes.

S. 306

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 306, a bill to establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and wildfire smoke related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery, and for other purposes.

S. 313

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. ERNST) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 313, a bill to restrict United States voluntary and assessed contributions to the United Nations, and for other purposes.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule re-

quiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 317, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 324

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 324, a bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out pilot projects relating to improved subseasonal to seasonal forecasting in agriculture and water management, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to repeal certain provisions relating to taxpayer subsidies for home electrification, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 338, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his contributions to civil rights, his loyalty and patriotism to the United States, and his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Con-

servation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters".

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared with respect to energy.

S. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 51, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Agency for International Development is essential for advancing the national security interests of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 391. A bill to clarify the rights of certain persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Access to Counsel Act.

This legislation would ensure that all individuals with a legal right to be in the United States have access to legal counsel if they are held by Customs and Border Protection at ports of entry or at airports.

This legislation would ensure that individuals who have a legal right to be in the United States and are held by Customs and Border Protection in secondary inspection at airports or other points of entry for more than 1 hour are granted an opportunity to access legal counsel and an interested party. An interested party is defined as a family member, sponsor, or organization with a connection to the individual.

The bill creates no obligation for the Federal Government to pay for counsel and allows counsel the ability to advocate on behalf of the individual being held at a port of entry, including by providing information or documentation in support of the individual.

It also invalidates any effort by CBP to persuade a lawful permanent resident to relinquish their legal status if that person has been denied access to counsel or voluntarily waives in writing their right to counsel.

In 2017, under the first Trump administration, a Muslim ban was implemented, and thousands of U.S. citizens, green card holders, and others with valid visas were detained at airports for hours.

They were held by CBP officers without any ability to call a lawyer, relative, or advocate. Many Members of Congress rushed to the airports in an attempt to help these individuals and were barred from speaking to them or connecting them with attorneys.

In early 2020, for example, dozens of Iranian Americans were held at the northern border in Blaine, WA, for 12 hours without access to counsel.

Everyone who has valid travel documents and is seeking entry to the United States should be afforded due process. If CBP refers someone to secondary inspection, they should be able to call counsel, family, or someone to support them. It is imperative that we are prepared this time and ensure that Americans and those with a legal right to be here have access to representation if they are held at a port of entry.

With a second Trump administration beginning, we must be ready for similar policies to be implemented and be proactive about trying to place guardrails against these abuses.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 52—RECOGNIZING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AS A CORNERSTONE OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY, AND EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER INCREASED THREATS TO AND ATTACKS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. Kaine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 52

Whereas freedom of religion is a fundamental right;

Whereas the First Amendment of the Constitution stipulates that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”;

Whereas, in pushing for religious freedom in the Commonwealth of Virginia, James Madison argued that the right to freedom of religion “is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society”;

Whereas freedom of religion is a foundational element of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in the United States and abroad, as well as a guiding principle for United States foreign policy;

Whereas Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom stipulates that “freedom of religion or belief is an expansive right that includes the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, association, and assembly”;

Whereas the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) recognizes religious freedom as a “universal human right”;

Whereas the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) requires the President to annually designate as a “country of particular concern” each country the government of which has engaged in or tolerated “particularly severe” religious freedom violations, including—

- (1) systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations such as torture;
- (2) cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;
- (3) prolonged detention without charges; and
- (4) forced disappearances;

Whereas, on December 29, 2023, the State Department designated Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan as countries of particular concern;

Whereas the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114–281; 130 Stat. 1426) requires the President to annually designate countries with severe religious freedom violations that do not reach the threshold of “systematic, ongoing, and egregious” violations to a “Special Watch List”;

Whereas, on December 29, 2023, the State Department designated Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic, Comoros, and Vietnam as Special Watch List countries;

Whereas, to enhance accountability for global human rights violations, including violations of religious freedom, President Joseph R. Biden signed the permanent authorization of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note) into law on April 8, 2022;

Whereas the Senate passed a resolution calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws in 2020 (Senate Resolution 458, 116th Congress, agreed to December 19, 2020);

Whereas, in 2023 and 2024, threats to religious freedom worsened around the world, including incidents targeting the exercise of religion in public or private, participation in religious advocacy, conversion from one religion to another, engagement in religious practices broadly, and those choosing to have no faith at all;

Whereas there were thousands of incidents wherein religious freedom was violated in 2023, including—

- (1) the targeting of 2,228 individuals by 27 countries and entities;
- (2) the imprisonment of 1,491 individuals;
- (3) the ongoing imprisonment of 1,311 individuals; and
- (4) the death of 9 individuals while in custody;

Whereas, as of 2024, there are 96 countries with legislation criminalizing blasphemy used to enforce arbitrary limitations on religious freedom of expression;

Whereas the Department of State has determined that religious minorities continue to be victims of genocides that relate to matters of religious freedom, including in—

- (1) Burma, where security forces have committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Rohingya Muslims since 2017, including the systematic killing, torture, and confinement of Rohingyas to small, overcrowded camps without freedom of movement or access to adequate food, health care, and education; and
- (2) China, where since 2017 the Chinese government has committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Uyghurs, including by—

- (A) imprisoning more than 1,000,000 Uyghurs in “re-education camps”;

- (B) subjecting Uyghur women to forced sterilizations and abortions;

- (C) deliberately separating Uyghur families;

- (D) instituting government surveillance through intrusive homestay programs; and
- (E) eliminating the Uyghur language from educational materials;

Whereas religious minorities face harassment, intimidation, violence, and imprisonment from state and non-state actors around the world, including in—

- (1) Afghanistan, where the Taliban has rigorously enforced its harsh interpretation of Shari'a law that violates the freedom of religion or belief of religious minorities, including Christians, Ahmadiyya Muslims, Baha'is, and nonbelievers who face imprisonment or death if discovered;

- (2) Burma, where in addition to violence targeted at religious minorities, strict laws in favor of the Buddhist majority regulate religious conversion, marriages, and births of non-Buddhists such as Muslims and Christians;

- (3) China, where the government utilizes targeted surveillance to monitor, harass, and detain Christians, Tibetan Buddhists, Falun Gong practitioners, Uyghur Muslims, and other religious minorities for exercising their beliefs;

- (4) Cuba, where the government subjects religious leaders and groups that are unregistered through its Office of Religious Affairs to detention, interrogation, imprisonment, and confiscation of property;

- (5) India, where laws promoting religiously discriminatory policies, including laws that target religious conversion, interfaith relationships, the wearing of hijabs, and cow slaughter, have been implemented at the national, state, and local levels and negatively impact the livelihoods of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and Adivasis;

- (6) Iran, where the government disproportionately subjects members of religious minorities such as Baha'is, Christians, Gonabadi Dervishes, and Sunni Muslims to amputations, floggings, detention, harassment, surveillance, executions, and exile;

- (7) Nicaragua, where the government arbitrarily detains and exiles religious clerics and leaders who advocate for the rights of religious minorities and criticize the government's persecution of the Roman Catholic Church;

- (8) Nigeria, where the government's enforcement of blasphemy laws embedded in Nigeria's criminal and Shari'a codes results in the arbitrary detainment and imprisonment of those who express their religious identity;

- (9) North Korea, where any religion contrary to the ruling ideology known as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is deemed an existential threat to the state;

- (10) Pakistan, where religious minorities face killings, lynchings, mob violence, forced conversions, and sexual violence for their religious identities;

- (11) Russia, where laws on terrorism and extremism are used to target religious minorities such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, and members of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church for their beliefs;

- (12) Tajikistan, where the government represses the display of public religiosity by individuals of all faiths and institutes strict restrictions against Muslims, including a ban on beards and hijabs;

- (13) Turkmenistan, where the government controls all aspects of religious life and expression, monitors religious practice, and punishes nonconformity through administrative harassment, imprisonment, and torture; and

- (14) Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine, where the Russian military has reportedly