

leader of the opposition, Edmundo González Urrutia, won with an overwhelming number of votes;

Whereas the Venezuelan people have demonstrated their desire to live in peace and political freedom, represented by a democratically elected President of their choosing;

Whereas many international organizations and heads of state have voiced concern with the lack of transparency throughout the electoral process; and

Whereas numerous countries have either called for transparency in the tally of election results or have rejected the results outright based on clear evidence of fraud, including Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, and Uruguay; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the victory of Edmundo González Urrutia in the Presidential election in Venezuela held on July 28, 2024;

(2) notes that such recognition is widely shared around the world;

(3) asserts that the victory of Edmundo González marks the return of a democratically elected leader at the national level in Venezuela; and

(4) stands in solidarity with the Venezuelan people in their democratic aspirations to live freely without repression.

SENATE RESOLUTION 805—COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMES WRIGHT FOLEY AND CALLING FOR THE MORAL COURAGE TO PRIORITIZE THE RETURN OF AMERICANS HELD CAPTIVE ABROAD AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY EFFORTS TO DETER INTERNATIONAL HOSTAGE TAKING AND ARBITRARY DETENTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 805

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, “for some reason I have physical courage, but, that’s nothing compared to moral courage. If I don’t have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don’t have that moral courage, we don’t have journalism”;

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by ISIS, his death then used as propaganda to recruit for jihad against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States

hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to “achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States” and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government’s hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that “the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive overseas.”;

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the “Bringing Americans Home” report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexandra Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Southern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has successfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden’s July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United States Government hostage, and strains international stability; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those

who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take the necessary steps to deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to urgently work with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of the national security threat posed by malignant captors and its sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40—ESTABLISHING NEW CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT TO ADDRESS REGULATORY REFORM

Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 40

Whereas there are more than 3,000 final rules issued every year by more than 50 Federal agencies;

Whereas a rule is defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code, as “the whole or part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy”;

Whereas subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”) established standards for the issuance of rules using formal rulemaking and informal rulemaking procedures;

Whereas informal rulemaking, also known as “notice and comment” rulemaking or “section 553” rulemaking, is the most common type of rulemaking;

Whereas, in rulemaking proceedings, formal hearings must be held and interested parties must be given the chance to comment on the proposed rule or regulation, and once adopted, the rule or regulation is required to be published in the Federal Register;

Whereas, according to the 2023 Ten Thousand Commandments report by the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the top 5 Federal rulemaking agencies (which, in 2022, were the Department of the Interior, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Health and