

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;*