

“Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act”.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 385

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 385, a resolution 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.

S. RES. 589

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 589, a resolution honoring Wadee Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy, murdered as a victim of a hate crime for his Palestinian-Muslim identity, in the State of Illinois.

S. RES. 599

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 599, a resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania.

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 616, a resolution condemning the treatment of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan and urging his immediate release, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 4132. A bill to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument and expand Joshua Tree National Park in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act.

The Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act would establish a new Chuckwalla National Monument to protect approximately 620,000 acres of public lands, while also expanding Joshua Tree National Park by adding approximately 17,842 acres of previously designated public lands that

were identified as suitable for inclusion in the park by the National Park Service.

The proposed Chuckwalla National Monument's vast desert landscape spanning from the area along Joshua Tree National Park's southern boundary, along Interstate 10 from the eastern Coachella Valley, and all the way to the Colorado River are worthy of permanent protection.

This area has a unique, biodiverse ecosystem; is home to habitats for species like the Chuckwalla lizard and the endangered desert tortoise; and contains critical migration corridors for desert bighorn sheep. This area is also cherished for outdoor recreation activities like hiking and rock climbing.

The lands within the proposed national monument include the homelands of the Iviatim, Nuwu, Pipa Aha Macav, Kwatsaan, and Maara'yam peoples (Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano Nations). Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument would help to protect important spiritual and cultural values tied to the land such as multi-use trail systems established by indigenous peoples, sacred sites and objects, traditional cultural places, geoglyphs, petroglyphs, pictographs, and native plants and wildlife.

I am proud to work to introduce this legislation that would preserve part of California's vast desert landscape, help ensure more equitable access to nature and recreation, protect biodiversity, and preserve decades of cultural riches, particularly for the Tribal governments who have worked so hard to protect this area.

I want to thank Representative RAUL RUIZ of California for leading the House companion and Senator BUTLER for her cosponsorship in the Senate. I look forward to working with our colleagues to pass the Chuckwalla National Monument Establishment and Joshua Tree National Park Expansion Act as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 642—URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION TO OPPOSE CONFIRMATION OF A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL, IF THE CANDIDATE WAS A FORMER LEADER OF A MEMBER COUNTRY WHICH DID NOT SPEND 2 PERCENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) ON DEFENSE

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. MULLIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 642

Whereas, in 2006, member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) first agreed to spend 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense;

Whereas, in 2014, at the NATO Summit in Wales, all member countries once again com-

mitted to maintain or move toward meeting the 2-percent defense spending minimum within 10 years;

Whereas, by 2022, only 11 member countries met the 2-percent minimum, including the United States and the United Kingdom, which were the only 2 major economies;

Whereas, throughout 2023, several countries significantly increased their defense spending, and in 2024, NATO expects 18 member countries to achieve the spending commitment despite historically not being able to fulfill the commitment;

Whereas this commitment is important to not only the defense of all NATO member nations, but also a commitment to the alliance itself; and

Whereas, through the Secretary General's role as the senior officer of the alliance, they must advocate for the fulfillment of the commitment and the continued strength of the alliance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares that the next Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should not be a former leader of a member country that did not spend 2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense spending;

(2) emphasizes that the demonstrated ability of countries with economies of all sizes within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to meet the 2-percent defense spending minimum proves that the failure of a member country to meet the commitment is a choice of will and not of circumstance;

(3) acknowledges that it would be hypocritical for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be led by a Secretary General who formerly led an alliance member country that failed to fulfill the 2-percent gross defense spending minimum;

(4) declares that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will never reach its full potential as long as the Secretary General is a member of a country's leadership that did not fulfill its commitment to the Organization; and

(5) urges all member countries to prioritize defense spending and to meet their obligations to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 643—RECOGNIZING THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MILITARY CHILDREN AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2024 AS THE “MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 643

Whereas brave men and women serve in the Armed Forces and protect the security and freedom of the United States;

Whereas over 1,300,000 active-duty members and nearly 1,000,000 ready-reserve members serve in the Armed Forces;

Whereas there are more than 1,540,000 military-connected children and youth who move, on average, 6 to 9 times during their educational career;

Whereas they encounter unique educational challenges when these children and youth move between public and Department of Defense Education Activity schools;

Whereas the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children