

provide grants for the repair, renovation, and construction of public elementary schools and secondary schools, to establish a school infrastructure bond program, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking.

S. 1764

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1764, a bill to extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.

S. 1911

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2203

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2203, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. RES. 363

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 363, a resolution expressing profound concern about the growing political, humanitarian, and economic crisis in Venezuela and the widespread human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of Venezuela.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 367—CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR ITS VIOLENCE AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS AND CALLING FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CONCERNS OF THE CITIZENS OF IRAN**

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 367

Whereas on December 28, 2017, citizens began protesting the Government of Iran across the country in the cities and towns of Dorud, Khomainsi Shahr, Najafabad, Qahdarian, Tehran, and Tuyserkan;

Whereas so far 20 people have been killed and 450 have been arrested since demonstrations first began;

Whereas the United States is committed to promoting universal human rights, specifically freedom of speech and freedom of assembly;

Whereas the Government of Iran has provided monetary support to terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas; and

Whereas the citizens of Iran deserve the support of the international community in their pursuit of a democratic government that respects human rights and freedoms: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran—

(A) for its funding of terrorist organizations and activities;

(B) the continued oppression of its citizens; and

(C) the suppression of communication through interference with internet applications such as Instagram, Facebook, Telegram and Twitter; and

(2) reaffirms—

(A) the commitment of the United States to preserving and promoting the freedoms of speech and assembly as universal rights; and

(B) the support of the United States for the citizens of Iran to establish a freely elected, democratic system.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 368—SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF ALL IRANIAN CITIZENS TO HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD

Mr. CORKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 368

Whereas, on December 28, 2017, Iranian citizens initiated protests objecting to the system of entrenched corruption and impoverishment in Iran, as well as the Government of Iran's foreign policy of supporting terrorism;

Whereas these protests began in the city of Mashhad and rapidly spread throughout urban and rural populations across Iran;

Whereas these protests constitute the most significant anti-government protests in Iran since June 2009;

Whereas reports indicate that Iranian citizens have expressed numerous economic grievances, including the regime's widespread corruption and investment of resources in regional conflicts;

Whereas reports indicate that many hundreds of Iranians have been arrested and dozens killed in connection with the protests;

Whereas the Government of Iran has shut down mobile internet access and is working to block access to social media applications used to organize and publicize the protests;

Whereas online social networking and information sharing sites such as Telegram, Instagram, and Twitter have been blocked;

Whereas the Government of Iran has routinely violated the human rights of its citizens, including ongoing, systematic, and serious restrictions of freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, including the continuing closures of media outlets, arrests of journalists, and the censorship of expression in on-line forums such as blogs and websites;

Whereas the 2016 Department of State Human Rights Report on Iran noted "severe restrictions on civil liberties, including the freedoms of assembly, association, speech, religion, and press. Other human rights problems included abuse of due process combined with use of capital punishment for crimes that do not meet the requirements of due process, as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrad-

ing treatment or punishment; and disregard for the physical integrity of persons, whom authorities arbitrarily and unlawfully detained, tortured, or killed.";

Whereas the Government of Iran has previously responded to protests with a concerted campaign of intimidation, repression, and violence, including human rights abuses against Iranian citizens;

Whereas the Government of Iran continues to operate with hostility and impunity toward journalists, reformers, ethnic and religious minorities, political opponents, human rights defenders, women's rights groups, student activists, and others, including through unlawful and arbitrary detentions, arrests, politically motivated sentencing, physical assaults, and killings; and

Whereas, on December 29, 2017, the Department of State strongly condemned the arrest of peaceful protesters and noted, "Iran's leaders have turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos.":

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the right of all Iranian citizens, many of whom braved the persistent and pervasive threat of censorship, arrest, physical harassment, and death, to have their voices heard;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran to respect the rights of the people of Iran to freedom of speech, press, religion, association, and assembly;

(3) condemns the Government of Iran's persistent human rights violations;

(4) warns the Government of Iran against any violence or retribution targeting peaceful protesters;

(5) objects to acts of censorship, intimidation, and other restrictions on freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of expression in Iran;

(6) encourages the President, the Secretary of State, and the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to work to convene emergency sessions of the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations Human Rights Council to condemn the ongoing human rights violations perpetrated by the Government of Iran and establish a monitoring mechanism by which the Council can monitor such violations;

(7) calls on the Government of Iran to cooperate with and allow visits of the United Nations Special Rapporteurs for Human Rights and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and

(8) urges the President and Secretary of State to work with the international community to ensure that violations of human rights are part of all formal and informal multilateral or bilateral discussions with and regarding Iran.

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, January 8; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Campbell nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.