WHEREAS, since the passage of LANGO, the Interior Ministry has announced that it was surveilling several civil society organizations and their employees for allegedly aiding Cambodia's opposition party, the Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP); and

WHEREAS both the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) have a long history in Cambodia, engaging local partners and building capacity for civil society, democracy, and good governance; and

WHEREAS on August 23, 2017, Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs ordered the closure of NDI and the expulsion of its foreign staff and allegations that it had violated LANGO and was conspiring against Prime Minister Hun Sen; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2017, Prime Minister Hun Sen provided for the withdrawal of all volunteers from the United States Peace Corps, which has operated in Cambodia since 2006 with 500 United States volunteers providing English language and healthcare training; and

WHEREAS the Government of Cambodia in 2016 arrested four senior staff members of the Cambodian Rights and Development Association (ADHOC), as well as a former ADHOC staff member and official on the National Election Committee (NEC), and held them in pre-trial detention for 427 days; and

WHEREAS the Government of Cambodia arrested two key leaders of the exiled Cambodia National Rescue Party, was arrested on September 3, 2017, and is facing up to 30 years in prison, which sets the stage for the CNRP to be dissolved; and

WHEREAS the CNRP’s previous leader, Sam Rainsy, remains in exile due to an outstanding warrant for his arrest in a politically motivated criminal case; and

WHEREAS international election monitoring groups reported that local elections held in Cambodia on June 4, 2017, took place in a “threatening environment hostile to free speech and genuine political participation” and the elections were neither free nor fair; and

WHEREAS international election monitoring groups reported fundamental flaws in the electoral process and violations of Cambodia’s election campaign rules during June’s local election; and

WHEREAS the Interior Ministry of Cambodia demanded that all opposition and monitoring organizations cease their activities just months after the local elections for allegedly violating the LANGO law, which will allow the CPP to continue to increase restrictions on election monitoring as the 2018 national elections approach; and

WHEREAS, despite irregularities in the electoral process, the CNRP made significant gains in local elections compared to previous cycles, making clear that national elections in 2018, if they are conducted freely and fairly, will be tightly contested; and

WHEREAS national elections in 2018 will be closely watched to ensure openness and fairness, and to monitor whether all political parties and civil society groups are allowed to freely participate; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2017, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate reported out the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill for the Department of State and foreign operations (S. 1780), which restricted any funds to the central Government of Cambodia unless it has “ceased efforts to intimidate society and the political opposition in Cambodia, is credibly investigating the murder of social and political activists, and is supporting the free and fair elections in Cambodia through a non-partisan election commission; fair election processes; open and inclusive participation, to include the return of exiled former opposition leaders and the release of jailed opposition leaders and activists; respect for freedoms of assembly, speech, and the press; and respect for the election dispute resolution mechanism” and

WHEREAS S. 1780 also includes language directing the Treasury, to consider placing all senior Cambodian government officials on the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list; and

WHEREAS, despite irregularities in the electoral process, the CNRP made significant gains in local elections compared to previous cycles, making clear that national elections in 2018, if they are conducted freely and fairly, will be tightly contested; and

WHEREAS national elections in 2018 will be closely watched to ensure openness and fairness, and to monitor whether all political parties and civil society groups are allowed to freely participate; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2017, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate reported out the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill for the Department of State and foreign operations (S. 1780), which restricted any funds to the central Government of Cambodia unless it has “ceased efforts to intimidate society and the political opposition in Cambodia, is credibly investigating the murder of social and political activists, and is supporting the free and fair elections in Cambodia through a non-partisan election commission; fair election processes; open and inclusive participation, to include the return of exiled former opposition leaders and the release of jailed opposition leaders and activists; respect for freedoms of assembly, speech, and the press; and respect for the election dispute resolution mechanism”; and

WHEREAS Human Rights Watch reported in November that local elections held in Cambodia on June 4, 2017, were marred by “widespread intimidation and harassment of opposition party activists, council members, and candidates”; and

WHEREAS international election monitoring groups reported fundamental flaws in the electoral process and violations of Cambodia’s election campaign rules during June’s local election; and

WHEREAS the Interior Ministry of Cambodia demanded that all opposition and monitoring organizations cease their activities just months after the local elections for allegedly violating the LANGO law, which will allow the CPP to continue to increase restrictions on election monitoring as the 2018 national elections approach; and

WHEREAS, despite irregularities in the electoral process, the CNRP made significant gains in local elections compared to previous cycles, making clear that national elections in 2018, if they are conducted freely and fairly, will be tightly contested; and

WHEREAS national elections in 2018 will be closely watched to ensure openness and fairness, and to monitor whether all political parties and civil society groups are allowed to freely participate; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2017, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate reported out the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill for the Department of State and foreign operations (S. 1780), which restricted any funds to the central Government of Cambodia unless it has “ceased efforts to intimidate society and the political opposition in Cambodia, is credibly investigating the murder of social and political activists, and is supporting the free and fair elections in Cambodia through a non-partisan election commission; fair election processes; open and inclusive participation, to include the return of exiled former opposition leaders and the release of jailed opposition leaders and activists; respect for freedoms of assembly, speech, and the press; and respect for the election dispute resolution mechanism” and

WHEREAS S. 1780 also includes language addressing the possibility of Cambodia officials who undermine democracy in Cambodia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Cambodia;

(2) condemns all forms of political violence in Cambodia, and urges the cessation of ongoing human rights violations in Cambodia organizations in order to retain its power;

(3) urges Prime Minister Hun Sen and the Cambodian People’s Party to end all harassment and intimidation of Cambodia’s opposition and democracy organizations as a means to weaken political opposition and democracy organizations in order to retain its power;

(4) urges the Department of State, in association with the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Department of the Treasury, to consider placing all senior Cambodian government officials implicated in the abuses noted above on the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list;

(5) urges the Government of Cambodia to free Mr. Kem Sokha immediately and unconditionally;

(6) calls on the Government of Cambodia to respect freedom of the press and the rights of its citizens to freely assemble, protest, and speak out against the government;

(7) supports the ongoing efforts in Cambodia and free and fair elections in 2018 monitored by international observers; and

(8) urges the President to communicate to the Government of Cambodia that if it ignores the recommendations of the international community and maintains the current repressive and intimidating political environment, the United States Government will have no choice but to determine that the 2018 elections were not conducted freely and fairly; and

WHEREAS international election monitoring groups reported fundamental flaws in the electoral process and violations of Cambodia’s election campaign rules during June’s local election; and

WHEREAS the Interior Ministry of Cambodia demanded that all opposition and monitoring organizations cease their activities just months after the local elections for allegedly violating the LANGO law, which will allow the CPP to continue to increase restrictions on election monitoring as the 2018 national elections approach; and

WHEREAS, despite irregularities in the electoral process, the CNRP made significant gains in local elections compared to previous cycles, making clear that national elections in 2018, if they are conducted freely and fairly, will be tightly contested; and

WHEREAS national elections in 2018 will be closely watched to ensure openness and fairness, and to monitor whether all political parties and civil society groups are allowed to freely participate; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2017, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate reported out the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill for the Department of State and foreign operations (S. 1780), which restricted any funds to the central Government of Cambodia unless it has “ceased efforts to intimidate society and the political opposition in Cambodia, is credibly investigating the murder of social and political activists, and is supporting the free and fair elections in Cambodia through a non-partisan election commission; fair election processes; open and inclusive participation, to include the return of exiled former opposition leaders and the release of jailed opposition leaders and activists; respect for freedoms of assembly, speech, and the press; and respect for the election dispute resolution mechanism” and

WHEREAS S. 1780 also includes language addressing the possibility of Cambodia officials who undermine democracy in Cambodia; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 2 through October 6, 2017, as “National Health Information Technology Week” to recognize the value of health information technology in transforming and improving the healthcare system for all people in the United States;

(2) recognizes the value of health information technology is essential to providing coordinated care, expanding access to care, and improving the mental and physical health for all people in the United States;

(3) recognizes the value of health information technology is essential to improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing healthcare costs;

(4) urges the President to communicate to the Government of Cambodia that if it ignores the recommendations of the international community and maintains the current repressive and intimidating political environment, the United States Government will have no choice but to determine that the 2018 elections were not conducted freely and fairly; and

WHEREAS Congress has recognized that the coordination of medical advice and health information technology, and high-speed broadband networks are transforming the delivery of care by bringing healthcare providers and patients together virtually, especially those patients who are in disadvantaged populations and areas;

WHEREAS the further development of precision medicine, which tailors medicines and treatments to the unique genetic blueprint, lifestyle, and environmental data of each patient, requires advances in health information technology, and high-speed broadband networks are transforming the delivery of care by bringing healthcare providers and patients together virtually, especially those patients who are in disadvantaged populations and areas;

WHEREAS Congress has recognized that the coordination of medical advice and health information technology, and high-speed broadband networks are transforming the delivery of care by bringing healthcare providers and patients together virtually, especially those patients who are in disadvantaged populations and areas;

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AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have 12 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Wells Fargo: One Year Later.”

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, beginning at 10:15 a.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. in room 330 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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, October 3, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing on the nomination of John M. Mitnick to be General Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SH–216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Administration’s Decision to End Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.”

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate, on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 from 2 p.m., in room SH–219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a Closed Memorial.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Energy is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on Tuesday, October 3, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 4; 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 Hargan nomination, with the time until 11 a.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:24 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 3, 2017 withdrawing from further Senate consideration in non-nomination:

SPENCER BACUS III, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPERT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2023, VICE LARRY W. WALKERTH, TERM EXPIRED.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 5; 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 Hargan nomination, with the time until 11 a.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 3, 2017:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

HALEY B. FRANK, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MIKE HUBERT JR., OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

JEFFRY B. JENSEN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

THOMAS L. KIRSCH II, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DAVID J. POWELL, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SHERWIN H. CENZIES, OF MISSOURI, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

TODD KINNEY, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

EXPERT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

SPENCER BACUS III, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EXPERT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2023, VICE PATRICIA M. LOUI, TERM EXPIRED.


ERNEST W. DUBESTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2022, VICE ERNEST W. DUBESTER, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

DON R. WILLETT, OF TEXAS, TO BE A CIRCUIT JUDGE, UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, VICE EMILIO M. GAREA, RETIRED.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

DAVID CHRISTIAN TRYON, OF OHIO, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, VICE DARYLL L. DEPREIST, RETIRED.