SENATE RESOLUTION 646—EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT FOR FINLAND AND SWEDEN'S ACCESSION INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) AND THE EXPEDITED RATIFICATION OF ACCESSION PROTOCOLS

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 646

Whereas Sweden and Finland are substantial contributors to the international community and play important roles in the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations;

Whereas, during the Cold War and since its end, Sweden and Finland sought to maintain peace in their region through policies of military non-alignment and neutral relations between Russia and the West, while nonetheless remaining true to their values and condemning the Russian government's authoritarian acts;

Whereas the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022, forced the transatlantic community to reconsider the geopolitical stability of their region;

Whereas NATO is the most successful political-military alliance in history and, guided by a set of common values, provides collective defense to nearly 1,000,000,000 people living in its member nations;

Whereas the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine marks the largest military conflict in Europe since World War II, representing a dramatic shift for European security and requiring NATO to change its policies to increase, modernize, and enhance its force posture and to create more strategic depth to adequately confront the new challenges, specifically those posed by Russia and China;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have provided incredible support to NATO-led operations, such as the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, KFOR in Kosovo, and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas both Finland and Sweden have been model members of NATO's Partnership Interoperability Initiative since its founding in 2014, and of NATO's Partnership for Peace since its founding in 1994;

Whereas NATO has a range of capabilities that can enhance the ability of Sweden and Finland to defend and deter conflict in their region;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have well-developed professional militaries and sophisticated defense industries that can provide NATO with new capabilities to bolster collective defense;

Whereas Sweden and Finland have proven their willingness and capability to contribute to cooperative international security efforts by donating military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and imposing coordinated sanctions on Russia;

Whereas each prospective NATO member is expected to have a functioning democratic political system based on a market economy, fair treatment of minority populations, a commitment to resolve conflicts peacefully, an ability and willingness to make contribution to NATO operations, and a commitment to democratic civil-military relations and institutions;

Whereas, alongside a number of our European allies, Finland and Sweden have recently announced the expansion and reform of their militaries, efforts that can be maximized if channeled toward collective security through the NATO framework;

Whereas the Arctic region, which holds increasing importance for United States and European security, has already seen encroachments from Russia and China, and Sweden and Finland are uniquely poised to address these regional challenges and help NATO confront them; and

Whereas Russia has threatened Sweden and Finland with ''serious military and political consequences should it choose to join NATO'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Finland and Sweden's decision to join NATO;

(2) acknowledges that Russia's invasion of Ukraine has dramatically changed the security situation in Europe, and that the reform and expansion of NATO is key to ensuring a safe and prosperous future for the United States and critical allies and partners;

(3) recognizes that Sweden and Finland have surpassed the qualifications expected of prospective members and that both countries have much to contribute and gain from membership in the NATO alliance;

(4) reaffirms its support for NATO's collective security commitment and for maximizing our allies' combined defense capabilities through NATO coordination and cooperation;

(5) calls on the President to move expeditiously to complete all documents and reports needed to support the Senate's approval of the accession protocols; and

(6) calls on all NATO members to move rapidly to complete their ratification processes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5042. Ms. HIRONO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes..

SA 5043. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services.; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5044. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5042. Ms. HIRONO (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2490, to establish the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa, Texas, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 4, strike lines 7 and 8 and insert the following:

(1) MAP.—The term ''map'' means the map entitled ''Blackwell School National Historic Site Proposed Boundary'', numbered 593/178387, and dated February 2022.

On page 5, strike lines 21 through 24.

On page 6, line 1, strike ''(2)'' and insert ''(1)''.

On page 6, line 4, strike ''(3)'' and insert ''(2)''.

SA 5043. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 502. OFFSET OF COSTS USING UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances made available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2; 135 Stat. 4), or an amendment made by such Act, there is rescinded, on a pro rata basis, the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of such unobligated balances by an amount equal to the total amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SA 5044. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4008, to provide COVID relief for restaurants, gyms, minor league sports teams, border businesses, live venue service providers, exclave businesses, and providers of transportation services; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. OFFSET OF COSTS USING UNOBLIGATED FUNDS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND AND THE CORONAVIRUS LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUND.

Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances made available under section 602(a) or 603(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802(a), 803(a)), there is rescinded, on a pro rata basis, the amount necessary to reduce the total amount of such unobligated balances by an amount equal to the total amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have six 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 Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet