
Business Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2015

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS
114TH Congress, First Session

BUSINESS MEETING

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U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1 The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:36 a.m. in Room S-116, Capitol
2 Building, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3 **PRESENT.** Senators Corker [presiding], Rubio, Johnson, Flake, Gardner, Barrasso,
4 Menendez, Cardin, Shaheen, Coons, Udall, and Kaine.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CORKER, U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** We will go ahead and call the meeting to order and thank those
6 who are here. I know we need one more to actually conduct business, but I really
7 appreciate people being here today. I know there is a lot happening, but the meeting is
8 now coming to order.

9 We have had some compelling hearings I know on the issue of modern slavery.
10 We have worked very closely with Senator Menendez's office and others. We certainly
11 appreciate all the effort that has taken place. But I really believe we have come to a
12 place where we have a bill that is going to have a significant impact on the issue of
13 people around the world being in bondage in modern slavery and being involved in
14 sexual servitude.

1 And we have done it in a way that is really a unique way of delivering this type
2 of service through leveraging the private sector with U.S. dollars and other settlements
3 two-to-one. And I think it is a way for us to actually establish metrics, get results, affirm
4 best practices.

5 And I am just really proud of our committee today and all those who have
6 worked on it. I think this is a pragmatic approach. And I especially want to thank
7 Senator Menendez, the ranking member, partner and friend, and his staff. Charlotte
8 Oldham-Moore and Margaret Taylor really dug into the details, and we just greatly
9 appreciate their efforts.

10 I think this is a very big moment for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I
11 really do. We are dealing with all kinds of other issues that involve conflict, that
12 involve war, and yet in the midst of this, dealing with an issue that affects so many
13 people so deeply. And I am really glad that we are here today, and hopefully we are
14 getting ready to pass out a very important piece of legislation.

15 And with that, I would like to recognize our distinguished ranking member.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BOB MENENDEZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

16 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And first of all, let me
17 acknowledge your leadership on this issue, and your deep commitment to ending
18 modern day human slavery, human trafficking in all its forms. There are a lot of things
19 happening in the world that rivets the attention of this committee at any given time.

1 And as your first major piece of legislation, it is the problems about — the focus that
2 you have, and I appreciate your leadership. I am thrilled to have joined you in this
3 effort.

4 Ending human trafficking in all of its forms, whether forced labor, sexual
5 exploitation, debt bondage, involuntary servitude, or the sale and exploitation of
6 children, is one of the great moral challenges of our time. And I believe that we are
7 stepping up to it in a very bold way. So I want to recognize all of the NGOs in civil
8 society that have been doing great work for a long period of time. But I think this is
9 going to be a tremendous boost in defeating what is a rather pervasive challenge in the
10 world today.

11 I appreciate you recognizing my staff. I hope it does not cause salary increases
12 for me.

13 [Laughter.]

14 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** If it is, I am going to revisit with you on the budget. But on a
15 serious note, they have done great work, as have your staff. They worked together on
16 this, and we are speaking with one voice and a strong vote.

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. And, you know, there are very few times when we
18 have legislation that is so personal and affects so many people, and this is a blight on
19 our society. U.S. leadership matters. There are tremendous efforts, though, underway

1 by NGOs, not only here, but around the world. And yet having this central focus on it
2 no doubt will empower them to do even greater things, so I thank you.

3 Are there any other members that wish to speak to this issue?

4 [No response.]

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. I would like to — Senator Gardner?

6 **SENATOR GARDNER.** Well, I just — Mr. Chairman, thank you. I just want to say
7 thank you again to the staff that worked with us on some issues, too. So I appreciate the
8 work and your willingness to move on this.

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you. Thank you. I know today is Senator Kaine's birthday,
10 so we do want to recognize him.

11 [Laughter.]

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. So I think we have the ability with the number of the
13 people here to go ahead and have amendments. And so, first of all, we have a
14 manager's amendment that we worked very closely with Senator Cardin, Senator Flake,
15 Senator Gardner, and Senator Shaheen. I would entertain a motion that we approve
16 that by voice vote.

17 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Second.

18 **SENATOR FLAKE.** If I could speak to that for just a minute. I want to thank the
19 chair, and the staff, and everyone on the Democrat and Republican side for working

1 with us on a number of issues, and a lot of them have been put in, and some good
2 language has come up in terms of GAO reports and whatnot. That is great.

3 There are some things that I think are still not defined as well as we need to. If
4 we are going to — if we are going to have a bill that hopes to end modern slavery, I
5 think we have got to proceed with an understanding or a definition as to what that is.
6 And I do have some concerns that there have been hyperbole and statements made
7 about what it really is and what it is not, and I think that needs to be better defined
8 before we get to the floor with this. And I hope to be able to work with the chairman
9 and others as this proceeds to get a definition of peonage, slavery. They are not
10 currently defined by U.S. law, and I think we are going to need a better definition if we
11 move forward.

12 So I thank the chairman for working on this, and I will go ahead, and I will make
13 the motion to go to the manager's amendment.

14 **VOICE.** Second.

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Seconded. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

16 [A chorus of ayes.]

17 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

18 [No response.]

19 **THE CHAIRMAN.** It passes. My understanding is Senator Flake also has some
20 amendments that he would like to offer in addition to the manager's amendment.

1 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Yes, I would call up Flake's second degree amendment to Flake
2 one.

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a — is there a second?

4 **VOICE.** Second.

5 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Would you like — would you like to speak to it?

6 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Yes, just very briefly. This amendment would prohibit the End
7 Slavery Foundation from expending Federal funds unless the act is reauthorized, and
8 until the foundation reports to Congress on the progress that has been made on the goal
9 of eliminating modern slavery. The underlying text authorizes the foundation for seven
10 years, and we all know that programs which lapse in authorization often continue to
11 receive appropriations. We want to make sure that we put sufficient guardrails around
12 this, and make sure that it is actually achieving the goals that have been set out in the
13 act.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Voice vote okay?

15 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Yes.

16 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All in favor of the Flake amendment?

17 [A chorus of ayes.]

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

19 [No response.]

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** That is passed. And you have a second amendment?

1 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Yes, this is Flake second degree to Flake four. This would simply
2 include — may I speak to it?

3 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Sure.

4 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Thank you. This is to simply include non-binding language to say
5 that we are not authorizing this initiative — or we are authorizing this initiative, but do
6 not — but we expect it will not paid for outside of the Budget Control Act.

7 We just want to make sure that we live within the agreement that we have in the
8 Budget Control Act. It is non-binding, but I think it is important to state that caps are
9 there for a reason. Both the administration and Congress, we cannot be complicit in
10 violating that from year to year. So with that, I urge support for the amendment.

11 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Senator Menendez?

12 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Mr. Chairman, I appreciate having a manager's amendment
13 and supported Senator Flake before. But this amendment was provided to members
14 after midnight last night. I and my staff have not had time to review it, and its meaning
15 is unclear. For me, that sets a bad precedent, and I would need more time to consider it
16 since we intend to move it to the floor at some point in time. I intend to oppose the
17 amendment.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second to the Flake amendment?

19 **VOICE:** Second.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. And I understand a voice vote is acceptable?

1 **SENATOR FLAKE.** Yes.

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All in favor of the Flake amendment, say aye.

3 [A chorus of ayes.]

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

5 [A chorus of noes.]

6 **THE CHAIRMAN.** The amendment fails. Okay, the nays have it.

7 Are there any further amendments?

8 [No response.]

9 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. The question before us then is the base bill, the motion to
10 approve S. 553, the End Modern Slavery Initiative of 2015, as amended.

11 All in favor will say aye.

12 [A chorus ayes.]

13 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

14 [No response.]

15 **THE CHAIRMAN.** It carries. The ayes have it.

16 This completes the committee's business. I ask unanimous consent that staff be
17 authorized to make technical and conforming changes.

18 Without objection, so ordered.

19 With that, without objection, the committee is adjourned. Thank you all very
20 much.

[Whereupon, at 9:45 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]