

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 623

Commemorating Otto Frederick Warmbier and condemning the North Korean regime for their continued human rights abuses.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2020

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

JUNE 18, 2020

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating Otto Frederick Warmbier and condemning the North Korean regime for their continued human rights abuses.

Whereas Otto Frederick Warmbier was born on December 12, 1994, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to parents Fred and Cindy Warmbier;

Whereas, upon his graduation as Salutatorian from Wyoming High School in 2013, Otto attended the University of Virginia;

Whereas, on December 29, 2015, Otto flew to North Korea as part of a guided tour;

Whereas, on January 2, 2016, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arrested Otto Warmbier on false charges of "subversion" and committing a "hostile act";

Whereas, on March 16, 2016, Otto Warmbier was convicted and sentenced to 15 years of hard labor;

Whereas, as a result of his mistreatment at the hands of North Korean authorities, Otto Warmbier suffered a serious medical emergency which placed him into a comatose state, and the North Korean authorities failed to report the deterioration of Otto Warmbier's physical condition to United States authorities;

Whereas, on June 13, 2017, after 17 months in captivity, the United States Department of State announced that it had secured the release of Otto Warmbier, whereupon he was medically evacuated from North Korea in a comatose state to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center;

Whereas, on June 19, 2017, Otto Warmbier died in the hospital as a result of his mistreatment at the hands of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

Whereas, on December 24, 2018, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia concluded that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was responsible for the "torture, hostage taking, and extrajudicial killing" of Otto Warmbier;

Whereas, on December 18, 2019, in an annual resolution, the United Nations General Assembly condemned "the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in and by" North Korea; and

Whereas, on December 20, 2019, the Otto Warmbier North Korea Nuclear Sanctions and Enforcement Act of 2019 (title LXXI of Public Law 116–92), was enacted: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That, in recognition of the 3rd anniversary
2 of Otto Warmbier’s passing on June 19, 2020, the Sen-
3 ate—

4 (1) remembers and celebrates the life of Otto
5 Frederick Warmbier, a young man with great poten-
6 tial;

7 (2) condemns the Government of the Demo-
8 cratic People’s Republic of Korea, which is respon-
9 sible for the unjustified arrest, mistreatment, and
10 death of Otto Warmbier;

11 (3) calls for the United States Government to
12 continue to use its voice and vote in the United Na-
13 tions to condemn systematic human rights violations
14 in North Korea; and

15 (4) calls for the sanctions enacted in the Otto
16 Warmbier North Korea Nuclear Sanctions and En-
17 forcement Act of 2019 (title LXXI of Public Law
18 116–92) to remain fully implemented until such time
19 that the Government of the Democratic People’s Re-
20 public of Korea commits to the verifiable suspension
21 of its proliferation and testing of weapons of mass
22 destruction, and has agreed to multilateral talks, in-

1 including the United States Government, with the goal
2 of permanently and verifiably limiting North Korea's
3 weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile
4 programs.

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