To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate March 9 as U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day and to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Coons (for himself and Mr. Rubio) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to designate March 9 as U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day and to designate the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag as an official symbol to recognize citizens of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad.

1  Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2  tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3  
4  SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5  This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Hostage and
6  Wrongful Detainee Day Act of 2022”.
7  SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.
8  (a) HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE DAY.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating the second section 146 (relating to Choose Respect Day) as section 147; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"§ 148. U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day

“(a) DESIGNATION.—March 9 is U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.

“(b) PROCLAMATION.—The President is requested to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to the second section 146 and inserting the following new items:

“147. Choose Respect Day.”

“148. U.S. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee Day.”.

(b) HOSTAGE AND WRONGFUL DETAINEE FLAG.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 9 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
§ 904. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag championed by the Bring Our Families Home Campaign is designated as the symbol of the commitment of the United States to recognizing, and prioritizing the freedom of, citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States held as hostages or wrongfully detained abroad.

(b) REQUIRED DISPLAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag shall be displayed at the locations specified in paragraph (3) on the days specified in paragraph (2).

(2) DAYS SPECIFIED.—The days specified in this paragraph are the following:


(B) Flag Day, June 14.

(C) Independence Day, July 4.

(D) Any day on which a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States—

(i) returns to the United States from being held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad; or

(ii) dies while being held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad.
“(3) LOCATIONS SPECIFIED.—The locations specified in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) The Capitol.

“(B) The White House.

“(C) The buildings containing the official office of—

“(i) the Secretary of State; and

“(ii) the Secretary of Defense.

“(c) DISPLAY TO BE IN A MANNER VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.—Display of the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag pursuant to this section shall be in a manner designed to ensure visibility to the public.

“(d) LIMITATION.—This section may not be construed or applied so as to require any employee to report to work solely for the purpose of providing for the display of the Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 9 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“904. Hostage and Wrongful Detainee flag.”.