

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States to increase engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region and with civil society, including the private sector, in both the United States and the Caribbean, in a concerted effort to—

- (1) enhance diplomatic relations between the United States and the Caribbean region;
- (2) increase economic cooperation between the United States and the Caribbean region;
- (3) support regional economic, political, and security integration efforts in the Caribbean region;
- (4) encourage enduring economic development and increased regional economic diversification and global competitiveness;
- (5) reduce levels of crime and violence, curb the trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law, and improve citizen security;
- (6) improve energy security by increasing access to diverse, reliable, and affordable power;
- (7) advance cooperation on democracy and human rights at multilateral fora;
- (8) continue support for public health advances and cooperation on health concerns and threats to the Caribbean region; and
- (9) expand Internet access throughout the region, especially to countries lacking the appropriate infrastructure.

SEC. 3. STRATEGY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a multi-year strategy for United States engagement to support the efforts of interested nations in the Caribbean region that—

- (1) identifies Department of State and USAID priorities, in coordination with other executive branch agencies, for United States policy towards the Caribbean region;
- (2) outlines an approach to partner with governments of the Caribbean region to improve citizen security, reduce the trafficking of illicit drugs, strengthen the rule of law, and improve the effectiveness and longevity of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative;
- (3) establishes a comprehensive, integrated, multi-year strategy to encourage efforts of the Caribbean region to implement regional and national strategies that improve energy security, by increasing access to all available sources of energy, including by taking advantage of the indigenous energy sources of the Caribbean and the ongoing energy revolution in the United States;
- (4) outlines an approach to improve diplomatic engagement with the governments of the Caribbean region, including with respect to key votes on human rights and democracy at the United Nations and the Organization of American States;
- (5) Describes how the United States can develop an approach to supporting Caribbean countries in efforts they are willing to undertake with their own resources to diversify their economies;
- (6) describes ways to ensure the active participation of citizens of the Caribbean in existing program and initiatives administered by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; and
- (7) reflects the input of other executive branch agencies, as appropriate.

SEC. 4. BRIEFINGS.

The Secretary of State shall offer to the appropriate congressional committees annual briefings that review Department of State efforts to implement the strategy for United States engagement with the Caribbean region in accordance with section 3.

SEC. 5. PROGRESS REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the submission of the strategy required under section 3, the Presi-

dent shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on progress made toward implementing the strategy.

SEC. 6. REPORTING COST OFFSET.

Section 601(c)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4001(c)(4)) is amended by striking “the following:” and all that follows through “(B) A workforce plan” and inserting “a workforce plan”.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) **CARIBBEAN REGION.**—The term “Caribbean region” means the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative beneficiary countries.

(3) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**—The term “security assistance” has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(2)).

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Corker amendment be agreed to, the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 5177) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To revise the multi-year strategy requirement regarding diplomatic engagement with Caribbean region governments)

On page 11, beginning on line 3, strike “with respect to” and all that follows through line 5 and insert “with respect to human rights and democracy”.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4939), as amended, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A CERTAIN CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1635

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 181, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a certain correction in the enrollment of S. 1635.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) was agreed to.

HOUSE BILLS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills received from the House en bloc: H.R. 4352, H.R. 5099, H.R. 5790, H.R. 6130, H.R. 6323, H.R. 6400, H.R. 6431, H.R. 6450, H.R. 6451, H.R. 6452, and H.R. 6477.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a third time.

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

FOSTER CARE FOR VETERANS ACT

The bill (H.R. 4352) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

COMMUNITIES HELPING INVEST THROUGH PROPERTY AND IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED FOR VETERANS ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 5099) to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2016

The bill (H.R. 5790) to provide adequate protections for whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for a long time, my friend Senator LEAHY and I have worked hard to improve protections for FBI employees who report waste, fraud, and abuse.

In March 2015, we held a hearing in the Judiciary Committee examining the FBI whistleblower program. That hearing addressed Department of Justice and Government Accountability Office reviews of the program. Both of those reviews found significant problems. The biggest problem is a longstanding loophole the Department created in its interpretation of the statutory protections for FBI whistleblowers. The Department's rules only protect FBI employees who experience reprisal after they report wrongdoing to a handful of offices or individuals. But those rules do not recognize that almost all whistleblowers first report wrongdoing to their immediate supervisor. Then they go up the chain of command. It is just human nature