H. R. 2061

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

Law 110–346), and the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–172) were the products of broad, bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of human rights, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) Fundamental human rights and humanitarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplorable, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulnerable, and the congressional findings included in the Acts listed in paragraph (1) remain substantially accurate today.

(3) The United States, which has the largest international refugee resettlement program in the world, has resettled 212 North Koreans since the enactment of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004.

(4) In addition to the longstanding commitment of the United States to refugee and human rights advocacy, the United States is home to the largest Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and many people in the Korean-American community have family ties to North Korea.
(5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, China has forcibly repatriated tens of thousands of North Koreans.

(6) Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega served 25 years in the House of Representatives, including as the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, was a leader in strengthening the relationship between the American and Korean peoples, authored multiple resolutions regarding issues on the Korean Peninsula, was a champion of human rights, and stated, in support of the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012, that “just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant in helping the people of North Korea who struggle daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the North Korean regime”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments to allow
the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
access to process North Korean refugees overseas
for resettlement and to allow United States officials
access to process refugees for resettlement in the
United States (if that is the destination country of
the refugees’ choosing);

(2) the Secretary of State, through persistent
diplomacy by senior officials, including United
States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in
close cooperation with United States ally South
Korea, should make every effort to promote the pro-
tection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and

(3) because North Koreans fleeing into China
face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their
forcible repatriation, the United States should urge
China to—

(A) immediately halt the forcible repatri-
ation of North Koreans;

(B) allow the United Nations High Com-
missioner for Refugees unimpeded access to
North Koreans inside China to determine
whether such North Koreans require protection
as refugees; and

(C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951
United Nations Convention Relating to the Sta-


(a) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(b) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended by striking “2017” in each place it appears and inserting “2022”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS.—Subsection (d) of section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(d) REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

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(e) Assistance Provided Outside of North Korea.—Paragraph (1) of section 203(c) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(f) Annual Reporting.—Section 305 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

SEC. 5. REPORT BY THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

(a) In General.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the status of current United States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent to which the Board has achieved the goal of 12-hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea, in accordance with section 103(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a)); and

(2) includes a strategy to overcome obstacles to such communication with the North Korean people, including through unrestricted, unmonitored, and inexpensive electronic means.
(b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given such term in section 5 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7803).