

to join Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. ED ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, myself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and the rest of the cosponsors on this bipartisan bill that promotes sustainable economic development, combats wildlife trafficking in Africa's critical Okavango River Basin, which supports more than a million people in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and which is home to several threatened wildlife species, including the largest remaining elephant population in the world.

□ 1630

Today, that region is at a near breaking point due to the not very well thought of development activities, and we have got to make sure that we act together.

Specifically, this bill will protect the vital Okavango River Basin by strengthening coordination between the United States, Angola, Botswana, and Namibia, and leveraging partnerships with the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and regional bodies; prioritizing wildlife trafficking to make sure that we stop these poaching programs that have really affected this particular area; promoting sustainable economic growth for local communities through responsible natural resource management; and, more importantly, helping to stop the extinction of these majestic animals, these elephants and other endangered species.

So it is important that we all work together as lawmakers in a bipartisan way and also partner with nations to build international political support for sustainable development while protecting the world's most sensitive ecosystems. In today's global community, it is crucial that we assist our international partners and make sure that we find a better way to protect our world.

In conclusion, I would say that we only have one world to live in. It is up to us to ensure that we promote sustainable development so our children and grandchildren have a better world to live in.

I want to thank the International Conservation Caucus Foundation, my colleagues, our co-chairs, and all of the Members on both sides that have worked so hard for this bipartisan support of this particular bill. So I thank my Members and colleagues for bringing this important matter to the U.S. Congress' attention, and I urge the support of this bill.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to reiterate the importance of conservation in combating the scourge of wildlife trafficking around the world. This bill reaffirms our commitment to these goals and will result in a strategy to encourage sustainable management of natural resources in the Okavango River Basin located in Angola, Botswana, and Namibia.

I thank Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CUELLAR, and, of course, Chairman

ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their work. This bill passed our committee by unanimous, bipartisan voice vote. I strongly support it, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the greater Okavango River Basin is home to the largest remaining elephant population on this planet, but like other regions across Africa, we know that poaching and trafficking of threatened species is increasing. We know that greater transboundary cooperation is essential to protect the basin in order to combat poaching threats and, obviously, to encourage the responsible management of water resources.

The U.S. currently supports programs in Africa to combat poaching threats and promote economic growth, but greater coordination and diplomatic engagement with these governments, these governments working together to streamline these programs and galvanize support from partner countries also in the region, is essential.

We do this not only to protect these threatened species, but also because it is in our national security interest to do so. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4819, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELIE WIESEL GENOCIDE AND ATROCITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3030) to help prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States Government capacities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to such crises, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3030

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 "Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States affirms the critical importance of

strengthening the United States Government's efforts at atrocity prevention and response through interagency coordination such as the Atrocities Prevention Board (referred to in this section as the "Board") or successor entity. In carrying out the work of the Board or successor entity, appropriate officials of the United States Government should—

(1) meet regularly to monitor developments throughout the world that heighten the risk of atrocities;

(2) identify any gaps in United States foreign policy concerning regions or particular countries related to atrocity prevention and response;

(3) facilitate the development and implementation of policies to enhance the capacity of the United States to prevent and respond to atrocities worldwide;

(4) provide the President with recommendations to improve policies, programs, resources, and tools related to atrocity prevention and response;

(5) conduct outreach, including consultations, not less frequently than biannually, with representatives of nongovernmental organizations and civil society dedicated to atrocity prevention and response;

(6) operate with regular consultation and participation of designated interagency representatives of relevant Federal agencies, executive departments, or offices; and

(7) ensure funds are made available for the policies, programs, resources, and tools related to atrocity prevention and response, including through mechanisms such as the Complex Crises Fund or other related accounts.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to—

(1) regard the prevention of genocide and other atrocities as in its national security interests;

(2) mitigate threats to United States security by addressing the root causes of insecurity and violent conflict to prevent—

(A) the mass slaughter of civilians;

(B) conditions that prompt internal displacement and the flow of refugees across borders; and

(C) other violence that wreaks havoc on regional stability and livelihoods;

(3) enhance the capacity of the United States to identify, prevent, address, and respond to the drivers of atrocities and violent conflict as part of the United States' humanitarian, development, and strategic interests; and

(4) pursue a Government-wide strategy to prevent and respond to the risk of genocide and other atrocities by—

(A) strengthening the diplomatic, risk analysis and monitoring, strategic planning, early warning, and response capacities of the Government;

(B) improving the use of foreign assistance to respond early, effectively, and urgently in order to address the root causes and drivers of violence, and systemic patterns of human rights abuses and atrocities;

(C) strengthening diplomatic response and the use of foreign assistance to support transitional justice measures, including criminal accountability, for past atrocities;

(D) supporting and strengthening local civil society, including human rights defenders and others working to help prevent and respond to atrocities, and protecting their ability to receive support from and partner with civil society at large;

(E) promoting financial transparency and enhancing anti-corruption initiatives as part of addressing a root cause of insecurity; and

(F) employing a variety of unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral means to prevent and respond to conflicts and atrocities by—

(i) placing a high priority on timely, preventive diplomatic efforts; and

(ii) exercising a leadership role in promoting international efforts to end crises peacefully.

SEC. 4. TRAINING OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS IN CONFLICT AND ATROCITIES PREVENTION.

Section 708 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—
(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) instruction on recognizing patterns of escalation and early warning signs of potential atrocities or violence, including gender-based violence, and methods of conflict assessment, peacebuilding, mediation for prevention, early action and response, and transitional justice measures to address atrocities.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘peacebuilding’ means nonviolent activities designed to prevent conflict through—

“(1) addressing root causes of violence;

“(2) promoting sustainable peace;

“(3) delegitimizing violence as a dispute resolution strategy;

“(4) building capacity within society to peacefully manage disputes, including the capacity of governments to address citizen grievances; and

“(5) reducing vulnerability to triggers that may spark violence.”.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for the following six years, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate a report, with a classified annex if necessary, that includes—

(1) a review, in consultation with appropriate interagency representatives, consisting of a detailed description of—

(A) current efforts based on United States and locally identified indicators, including capacities and constraints for Government-wide detection, early warning and response, information-sharing, contingency planning, and coordination of efforts to prevent and respond to situations of genocide and atrocities and other mass violence, such as gender-based violence and violence against religious minorities;

(B) recommendations to further strengthen United States capabilities described in subparagraph (A);

(C) funding expended by relevant Federal departments and agencies on atrocities prevention activities, including transitional justice measures and the legal, procedural, and resource constraints faced by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development throughout respective budgeting, strategic planning, and management cycles to support conflict and atrocities prevention activities in countries identified to be at risk of atrocities;

(D) current annual Government global assessments of sources of instability, conflict, and atrocities, the outcomes and findings of such assessments, and, where relevant, a review of activities, and the efficacy of such activities, that the Atrocities Prevention Board or successor entity undertook to respond to sources of instability, conflict, and atrocities;

(E) consideration of analysis, reporting, and policy recommendations to prevent and respond to atrocities produced by civil society, academic, and other nongovernmental organizations and institutions;

(F) countries and regions at risk of atrocities, including a description of most likely pathways to violence, specific risk factors, potential groups of perpetrators, and at-risk target groups; and

(G) instruction on recognizing patterns of escalation and early warning signs of potential atrocities and methods of conflict assessment, peacebuilding, mediation for prevention, early action and response, and transitional justice measures to address atrocities in the Federal training programs for Foreign Service officers;

(2) recommendations to ensure shared responsibility by—

(A) enhancing multilateral mechanisms for preventing atrocities, including strengthening the role of international organizations and international financial institutions in conflict prevention, mitigation, and response; and

(B) strengthening regional organizations;

(3) implementation status of the recommendations contained in such review; and

(4) identification of the Federal departments and agencies and civil society, academic, and nongovernmental organizations and institutions consulted for preparation of such report.

SEC. 6. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term “genocide” means an offense under subsection (a) of section 1091 of title 18, United States Code, or any substantially similar conduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it was over 60 years ago that free people around the world pledged to never again stand by in silence as oppressed people are annihilated in a genocide. Unfortunately, since then, we have witnessed mass atrocities and genocide in places such as Bosnia, the Rwandan genocide, Cambodia, Burma, and in the ISIS strongholds in Syria and in Iraq.

The United States has often been a leader in responding to these and other humanitarian crises—not soon enough, in many cases. However, there is more, obviously, that can be done, and U.S. efforts have been largely reactive and disjointed, with little transparency or oversight.

This bill is the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act. It would correct these deficiencies. This act would require an annual report of

administration actions to prevent and respond to potential genocides and mass atrocities, and it would mandate the identification of countries that are at risk of such crimes against humanity.

This act also requires that all Foreign Service officers, who often are at the forefront of U.S. efforts to address atrocities ever since our Ambassador in Armenia was the first to sound the alarm on the Armenian genocide, be trained to deal with early warning signs, conflict assessment, mediation, and other responses.

All of this will better enable our government to develop a coordinated response as a crisis is developing and, ultimately, to save lives.

With its name, this bill honors the legacy of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, and it furthers our commitment to his call, for it was his call for “never again”—never again by strengthening the U.S. Government’s coordination on efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to genocide and other mass atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

July 17, 2018.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On June 22, 2018, H.R. 3030, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 was referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (the Committee).

In order to expedite the House’s consideration of the measure, the Committee will forgo consideration of the measure. This courtesy is conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the legislation or any similar measure, nor will this waiver inhibit the Committee’s ability to address issues of concern going forward. I appreciate your support to the appointment of Members from the Committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I also appreciate your including this letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 16, 2018.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 3030, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to

seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 3030 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, this bill passed our committee by unanimous, bipartisan voice vote. It is named for Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor and author who spent decades leading the fight to bring Nazis to justice.

First, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri, Ambassador WAGNER, and the chairman of the Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from New York, JOE CROWLEY, for their work in bringing forward this very important bill that improves our capacity to prevent and respond to genocides and mass atrocities. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Millions of innocent civilians have died in mass atrocities and genocides. I would like to take just a second to remind everyone of a few of these tragedies:

The first genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian genocide, which killed approximately 1.5 million people;

The Holocaust, from 1933 to 1945, more than 9 million people were killed, including over 6 million Jews;

Cambodia in 1975, which saw the slaying of 2 million people;

Rwanda in 1990, which saw the deaths of 800,000 in just 100 days; and

Sudan, Darfur, and the tragedy there.

Tragedies and crises like this are not just in the past. Today, we are witnessing mass killings of innocent people in many places around the globe.

In Burma, the military has inflicted horrific violence against the Rohingya people. Thousands have been killed. This is ethnic cleansing, and it appears on the verge of genocide.

Now, 700,000 refugees have been pushed into Bangladesh, 80 percent of them are women and children. And as I mentioned, in Darfur, some 300,000 are dead, 3 million displaced.

This measure gives us the tools to detect the warning signs of a mass atrocity or genocide so that we can respond quickly and improves interagency coordination. Overall, this measure will make our government better equipped to handle the growing threats of genocide and crimes against humanity.

This is a good bill. The prevention of genocide and mass atrocity should be a core objective of our Nation's national security and foreign policy missions. The bill passed, as I said before, our committee by a unanimous bipartisan voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), who is the author of this legislation.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

I introduced this bill to improve U.S. efforts to prevent mass atrocity crimes. The legislation honors the legacy of Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel and his life's work to fight evil around the world.

Mr. Wiesel was just 15 years old when the Nazis deported him and his family to Auschwitz. Having witnessed the near total destruction of his people, he spent his life defending the persecuted. As Mr. Wiesel understood so well, the true horror of genocide is that it is preventable.

We are haunted by repeated failures and missed opportunities to end these tragedies before they begin. There is more the United States can and must do to help vulnerable communities and persecuted people around the world.

The reality is that good intentions and platitudes like "never again" have not prevented the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians at the hands of the Assad regime nor the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya Muslims in Burma.

When I introduced this legislation, I thought of the Bosnian community in St. Louis, my hometown. This community has shaped what St. Louis looks and feels like. It has added great cultural diversity to the city, immense intellectual capital, thriving small businesses, and a strong religious presence.

Two decades ago, members of our Bosnian community were refugees. In 1995, Orthodox Serbs, under the command of General Ratko Mladic, initiated a horrific ethnic cleansing campaign against majority-Muslim Bosniaks. The bloodshed forced 130,000 Bosnian refugees to seek new lives in the United States.

It is fitting that today we remember the victims of the Bosnian genocide just a few days after its 23rd anniversary. I am continually amazed by the resilience of our Bosnian neighbors. Their courage has inspired me to seek change.

The Elie Wiesel Act expresses Congress' strong support for better utilization of existing resources, particularly the Atrocities Prevention Board, which is dedicated to coordinating U.S. atrocity prevention and response, and the Complex Crises Fund, which supports agile, efficient responses to unforeseen crises overseas.

Additionally, we require the administration to evaluate existing prevention efforts, report on countries at risk of genocide and mass atrocity crimes, and recommend concrete improvements to our early warning systems.

The bill also mandates that U.S. Foreign Service officers are trained in atrocities recognition and response. Should this bill become law, America's diplomats will be better equipped to

act before violence spirals out of control.

The Elie Wiesel Act establishes that it is the official policy of the United States to regard atrocities prevention as a core national security interest and to address root causes of conflict through our humanitarian, development, and strategic endeavors.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker, genocide is preventable. The United States is the global leader in genocide and atrocities response, but we must shift our attention towards prevention so that no one ever becomes a victim in the first place.

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H.R. 3030 is an important first step. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his cooperation on this piece of bipartisan legislation, and I urge its support.

Mr. SHERMAN. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) an original cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

I thank my good friend, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, and Ranking Member ENGEL for their support in bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

I also appreciate the work of Ambassador WAGNER on this measure, and I am proud to be a cosponsor and the lead Democrat on this bill with Congresswoman WAGNER.

Standing up against genocide and mass atrocities is a critical responsibility for the United States. There is no other country in the world that can hold other nations accountable but the United States. No other country can do it like we can—not France, not Germany, not Great Britain, certainly not China, especially not Russia. No other country in history has had the moral suasion of the United States.

Many of us are concerned about what is happening to our country right now and our positioning in being able to push back against atrocities and human rights violations around the world. I would be remiss if I didn't mention a concern for what took place yesterday in Helsinki as an example of a growing concern of our ability to hold and to sway moral convictions on these issues. But it is a responsibility that is important to our country and, more importantly, it is a responsibility that is important to our world.

If you walk down Independence Avenue and to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, you will see and hear the words, "Never again." It is a phrase that brings to mind some of the world's worst atrocities and most heinous crimes.

As Elie Wiesel, who this bill is named after, and a man whom I had the opportunity to know and be in his company

on many occasions, wrote, ‘Never again’ is more than a set of words. He went on to say, ‘It’s a prayer, a promise, a vow. . . . And never again the glorification of base, ugly, dark violence.’

It also reminds us that taking responsibility for stopping atrocities is incumbent on all of us. It requires us to put ourselves in the shoes of the victims and to think about what we hope would be done if we were in their place, if we faced that horror, if we faced those atrocities. What would we want to be done on our behalf?

The measure before us takes a step in that direction. It encourages the government to meet regularly and take steps to predict and prevent mass atrocities. It gives strong support for the Atrocities Prevention Board.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. CROWLEY. And it requires the training of foreign service officers on how to take steps to recognize and prevent genocide and other atrocities.

It is not as strong a bill as Representative WAGNER and I would have liked it to have been. I know we both wanted to see more in this bill. But, as with most legislation, this is a very important first step, upon which I know further progress will be made down the road.

This is an important signal from Congress that preventing atrocities must be part and parcel of the United States foreign policy in the White House, the State Department, the intelligence community, and throughout our government.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support its passage, and I encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN), chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms. ROSLEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as always, I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their work in always bringing forth solid, bipartisan bills to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my full support for Ambassador ANN WAGNER’s bill before us today, H.R. 3030, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. This bill takes necessary and overdue steps to make preventing genocide and other atrocities a priority in our foreign policy. Indeed, this bill makes it clear that it will be the policy of the United States that the prevention of genocide and other atrocities is not only in our national security interests, but it is a core moral responsibility for us to do so.

Far too often, these acts have been met with indifference, indifference from responsible nations and indifference from those who are not directly

impacted by the mass murders and the torment and the destruction. Elie Wiesel, this bill’s namesake, challenged us to always take sides, to not allow indifference or neutrality to dictate our actions. As he said, ‘Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.’

Our values and ideals as Americans dictate that we must do what we can to prevent genocide, to prevent atrocities, and to prevent human rights violations. This bill enshrines those principles. It ensures that the United States is at the forefront of the fight against these crimes against humanity, and will use the full weight and force of our foreign policy to prevent them from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ambassador WAGNER for authoring this bill, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my voice to commend Congresswoman WAGNER, Congressman ENGEL, and Congressman CROWLEY for working in a bipartisan fashion to put together this important legislation.

This legislation firmly establishes that official United States policy is to prevent genocide and other criminal atrocities, and makes certain that it is treated as a core national security interest by supporting the programs that can help avert the deaths of innocents around our globe.

Representing one of the largest populations of holocaust survivors in the Nation is one of my greatest privileges as a Member of Congress. To honor these survivors, and to honor the 6 million Jews who did not survive, we must do everything in our power to prevent another atrocity like the one they experienced.

When we commemorate the Holocaust, we make a sacred promise to ourselves and to all of our neighbors by saying and committing to ‘Never again.’ This legislation puts real weight behind those words.

From the brutal lessons we have learned from crimes against humanity that span continents and centuries, we must forge a brighter future.

Jewish tradition compels us to perform tzedakah—acts of justice—and we are driven by tikkun olam—repairing the world. We have a responsibility to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves, to make the world a better place.

But these values are not unique to Jews or to Judaism. They are values we all strive to share.

Our Nation has the unique capability to prevent these tragedies before they unfold.

Elie Wiesel, who I was privileged to know, the rightful namesake of this

legislation, wrote, ‘We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.’

When this bill becomes law, we can take comfort in knowing the United States of America is taking sides, is not neutral, and is not silent in the face of inhumanity. When we are faced with bigotry and hate, with war crimes and crimes against humanity, with ethnic cleansing and genocide, the United States must always remain a beacon of hope for justice, freedom, and peace. With this bill, we do just that.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this measure, and I thank Ambassador WAGNER and Representative CROWLEY for their work.

This bill will equip our government with the tools to better monitor and, hopefully, prevent genocide. It passed our committee with an unanimous bipartisan voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman ANN WAGNER, for her leadership on this important bill. I also thank the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ENGEL, for his support, along with Mr. SHERMAN, on this bill.

Passage of this legislation sends a strong message of the continuing U.S. commitment to respond to genocide and to respond to mass atrocities as they emerge, with effective and coordinated programs that will best protect the most vulnerable. The U.S. must be a world leader in efforts to prevent genocide and crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3030, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2017, sponsored by my friend ANN WAGNER. This bill will greatly strengthen our efforts to anticipate, prevent, and mitigate genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Wherever there are atrocities being committed, or at risk of being committed, our foreign service officers are also often serving on the front lines. What H.R. 3030 would ensure is that they have the right training to recognize and respond to early warning signs of such crimes.

This legislation will also strengthen Congressional oversight by requiring the President to annually report on what is happening on the ground, how the United States has responded, and recommendations for strengthening the U.S. response.

I commend my colleague for naming this bill after the late, iconic Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel. He spoke so powerfully about the unique, persistent evil of anti-Semitism that generated the Holocaust, warning that ‘the

antisemite is by definition ideologically fanatic and pathologically racist . . . an antisemite is someone who has never met me, never heard of me, yet he hates me.”

Mr. Wiesel and I worked together at the historic 2004 Berlin conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). There, 55 participating governments committed to taking specific actions to combat anti-Semitism. In 2002, I led the original Congressional push to place combating anti-Semitism at the top of the OSCE agenda, and I was proud to lead this movement once again in 2004, together with parliamentarians from Germany, the UK, and France—and Mr. Wiesel.

In his 2004 Berlin keynote address, Mr. Wiesel said, “We know . . . that anti-Semitism is dangerous not only to Jews but to countries too, where it is allowed to flourish . . . When a Jew is slapped in the face, humankind itself falls to ground . . . Anti-Semitism is rooted in hatred; its language is a language of hatred, its doctrine is filled with hatred—and hatred by its nature, always runs overboard, crossing geographical boundaries and ethnic affiliations. It is a contagious disease.”

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Wiesel dedicated his life to exposing the insidiousness of anti-Semitism and working to prevent other genocides, including those in Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. Named for him, the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act offers new ways for us to strengthen our fight against genocide, and I am proud to cosponsor this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3030, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROTECTING DIPLOMATS FROM SURVEILLANCE THROUGH CONSUMER DEVICES ACT

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4989) to require the Department of State to establish a policy regarding the use of location-tracking consumer devices by employees at diplomatic and consular facilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4989

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 “Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act”.

SEC. 2. SECURE UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR FACILITIES AGAINST CYBERSURVEILLANCE.

(a) POLICY ON LOCATION-TRACKING CONSUMER DEVICES.—Not later than 60 days after

the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a policy on the use of location-tracking consumer devices, including GPS-enabled devices, at United States diplomatic and consular facilities by United States Government employees, contractors, locally employed staff and members of other agencies deployed to or stationed at such facilities.

(b) SECURITY BRIEFING.—Existing and new employees at United States diplomatic and consular facilities, including contractors, locally employed staff, and members of other agencies deployed to or stationed at such facilities, shall, as a part of the security briefings provided to such employees, be informed of the policy described in subsection (a) and given instructions on the use of location-tracking consumer devices both on and off the premises of such facilities.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State may coordinate with the heads of any other agencies whose employees are deployed to or stationed at United States diplomatic and consular facilities in the formulation of the policy described in subsection (a) and the dissemination of such policy pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the formulation of the policy described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the details of such policy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I thank Mr. CASTRO and Mr. MCCAUL, the co-authors of this legislation. I know Mr. MCCAUL knows some of the dangers that our diplomats face overseas. In his past service to the United States, he has been in parts of this dangerous world, and this is what our diplomats face. As they work to prevent armed conflict, there are armed combatants on the other side of those issues. As they try to combat terrorism, as they are working out there to empower women or to open new markets for U.S. exports, they are in tough environments. In turn, it is our job to ensure that our diplomats have the information and resources they need to stay safe while they serve our country overseas.

□ 1700

Now more than ever, everyday devices such as smartphones include location tracking capabilities. While these are enormously useful tools, they also, obviously, present security concerns as users’ locations can then be tracked by others, by hostiles.

For the thousands of State Department employees who work overseas, this is a real concern. It is a real security risk.

While the State Department has longstanding and thorough policies on the use of these devices while in embassies and in consulates, the Department has no such policy to guide per-

sonnel outside Department grounds. And that is where we send them, outside the Department grounds.

So the bill before us today addresses this security gap. It mandates that the State Department develop a comprehensive, modernized policy on devices that contain tracking capability. It also requires that all current and future diplomatic staff be briefed on the new policy and current best practices for using devices that are enabled with local tracking features. The objective is to build in a culture of safety and self-awareness.

Technology is advancing every day, and we must not allow our agencies to expose personnel to new risks.

I urge my colleagues to support this act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4989, the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act. This bill, again, passed our committee by unanimous, bipartisan voice vote.

I want to begin by thanking Mr. CASTRO, and also others, for introducing this legislation. I am pleased to be one of the cosponsors.

This bill aims to ensure the Department of State has policies in place to prevent our adversaries from tracking the locations of our Foreign Service officers through their electronic devices.

From fitness trackers, to smartwatches, to phones, most of us have at least one device that could be used to track us with the right technology that has GPS capacities. Many of us would literally be lost without these devices, but they could pose a security risk. This is especially true for our diplomats overseas whose locations and travels can reveal sensitive information sources. Location information is a potential gold mine to our adversaries.

This commonsense measure would make sure that the Secretary of State has a policy in place on the safe use of consumer electronic devices by our diplomatic and consular facilities and personnel. It would require proper training for employees and contractors, and ensure that the policy is coordinated across all parts of our government that use our diplomatic and consular facilities.

This bill would also improve congressional oversight of this policy.

This bill will reduce the security risks associated with GPS devices and other consumer electronic device.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the coauthor of this measure.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act.