

seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. FERGUSON. This bill will continue these opportunities, increasing funding, and giving States more flexibility to implement innovative programs.

Most importantly, a diverse group of members from our community from all socioeconomic backgrounds stand on the edge of success, and this will help get them there.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing this bill pass, and I urge everyone to support it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you, again, to Congressman G.T. THOMPSON, Chairwoman FOXX, Ranking Member SCOTT, all the members of the Education and the Workforce Committee, all the staff on the Education and the Workforce Committee, and a point of personal privilege, Sam Morgante and Brian Kaissi for their yeoman's work on my staff.

The CTE bill will begin a career and technical education revolution in this country. It will allow us to equip millions of young people and those in career transition with the skills to take the jobs of the future.

There are 6.7 million unfilled jobs that are waiting to be filled by motivated, enterprising, hardworking people who seek a middle class lifestyle, which is the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support of this landmark legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on my side of the aisle?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today what we are talking about is restoring rungs in the ladder of opportunity. This is about providing better access to more effective skills-based education for all Americans.

A lot of people listening sometimes think about career and technical education, and appropriately, they think about our kids who we are trying to equip and prepare them to be successful in life, to have better lives than what we have had as their parents, and we certainly are here to do that. This legislation does serve those kids.

But this legislation serves Americans at any age, at every point in their life, to be able to tap back into a system, to get a little bit more training, a certification, a specialization, to be able to get a promotion, to get a better job. And it really is about upward mobility, Mr. Speaker.

I would say on every school day somewhere around this country, there is a student, maybe a young lady, that is not really motivated to get out of bed to go off to school, because she is someone that doesn't learn perhaps as

well as others in a conventional education setting where people are lecturing and, you know, just being in the classroom setting. And she is reluctant. When she does go to school, my guess is she is probably in that classroom, and many times you find her with her head down on her desk.

But if you put the tools, Mr. Speaker, of career and technical education in her hands, she becomes inspired. Now, that could be a welder, it could be wrenches, it could be a hammer, it could be a keyboard, it could be a paintbrush, it could be a stethoscope, it could be the tools of agriculture. There are just so many tools. You put one of those tools in her hands, she is inspired. You have lit her life on fire of what is possible.

I would say this morning, when we all got up and we are having our breakfast, somewhere in America, many places in America, there were young families sitting around the table, maybe a husband and wife that have maybe young children, who, because of unemployment or underemployment, they are just wondering how they are going to pay the bills. This is a piece of legislation that serves that man and that woman to be able to get back into the workforce. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, to get back into the workforce for the first time in a generation.

□ 1315

For those folks who are living in intergenerational poverty, they have been in poverty so long that they don't recall what happened in generations past that placed their family in that situation. But this is a rung on the ladder of opportunity to climb out of those circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, there are many places in this country today where employers are waking up faced with a difficult decision. They have had a business that has been very, very successful. They have done well in life, and they have got a great product or a great service. They have got a great location. They have got a great marketing plan. They have got a great compliance plan to deal with overregulation. But what they don't have is a qualified and trained workforce.

They have two decisions to make that morning. All of it involves shuttering that business, closing it, putting plywood on the doors and the windows, and just walking away and enjoying what they have earned and accumulated; or moving that business overseas where, perhaps, there are more warm bodies to be able to fill those jobs.

This bill serves those employers as well.

And so, once again, I want to thank Representative KRISHNAMOORTHY as well as all of the Members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 2353, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, and representative of Kansas' manufacturing hub known as the Air Capital of the World . . . I have heard repeatedly about the skills gap facing employers and today's labor force.

For a generation . . . many have stressed the importance of a 4-year degree over that of a technical skill.

While a 4-year degree remains vitally important . . . we must not forget the equal need for career and technical education . . . especially when our economy now has more job openings than qualified applicants.

That's why I'm proud to support H.R. 2353.

This bipartisan bill helps more Americans enter the workforce with skills they need to succeed.

The bill provides local leaders more resources and flexibility to adapt to changing education and economic needs; supports more collaboration between employers and educators to close the skills gap; streamlines performance measures for CTE programs; and reigns in Washington's control over individual curriculums and performance.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2353.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE, PERSECUTION, INTIMIDATION, AND MURDERS COMMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA AGAINST ITS CITIZENS

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 981) condemning the violence, persecution, intimidation, and murders committed by the Government of Nicaragua against its citizens, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 981

Whereas Daniel Ortega has taken systematic steps to weaken democratic institutions in Nicaragua since 2006, including by manipulating the Nicaraguan Constitution through actions such as eliminating presidential term limits;

Whereas Daniel Ortega selected his wife, Rosario Murillo, as his vice-presidential candidate in 2016;

Whereas domestic and international observers have repeatedly documented and criticized irregularities in the 2011 and 2016 presidential elections as well as the 2012 and 2017 municipal elections in Nicaragua;

Whereas, on April 18, 2018, students in Nicaragua began to protest the unilateral decision of the Government of Nicaragua to impose reforms on the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute;

Whereas the protests were met with a violent and brutal response from the Nicaraguan National Police, subsequently resulting in a widespread call by the Nicaraguan

people for freedom, democracy, electoral reforms, and respect for human rights;

Whereas since April 18, 2018, the Nicaraguan government, the Nicaraguan National Police, or militias controlled by the Nicaraguan government have been responsible for escalating violence, committing murders, and many cases of torture and disappearances;

Whereas to block the dissemination of reports of violence and repression committed against peaceful protesters, the Nicaraguan government shut down the signal of media stations throughout Nicaragua;

Whereas according to press reports, the Nicaraguan government has denied basic medical care to and attempted to poison the food and water of those protesting oppression under the Ortega administration;

Whereas, on the night of April 20, 2018, a pro-government mob set fire to the offices of independent radio station Radio Dario in the city of León;

Whereas, on April 20, 2018, Ambassador Michael Kozak, the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State, said, “Nicaragua is going in the wrong direction on many fronts and that is one of them, of media freedom. But also on all the basics, I mean, it’s a long litany of torture, extrajudicial killing, the elections were a sham . . . the Ortega government has basically shut down a lot of the opposition, a lot of the independent civil society organizations as well as the free media”;

Whereas, on April 21, 2018, Nicaraguan journalist Angel Gahona was shot and killed by pro-government security forces while broadcasting live on Facebook;

Whereas, on April 21, 2018, the Department of State issued a travel advisory for Nicaragua and since then has continued to advise travelers to reconsider travel to Nicaragua due to ongoing violence;

Whereas, on April 22, 2018, the Department of State issued a statement that “we condemn the violence and the excessive force used by police and others against civilians who are exercising their constitutional right to freedom of expression and assembly”;

Whereas, on April 23, 2018, the Department of State ordered the departure of family members accompanying United States Government personnel in Nicaragua and also authorized the departure of such personnel;

Whereas, on Mother’s Day in Nicaragua, May 31, 2018, press reports stated that peaceful marches to support the mothers of the victims of the earlier protests encountered violence from “the repressive police and shock forces”, leaving 15 dead and nearly 200 injured in the cities of Managua, Estelí and Masaya;

Whereas, on May 31, 2018, the Department of State issued a statement saying that “those individuals responsible for human rights violations will be held accountable by the international community in international fora” in response to the violence during the Mother’s Day protests;

Whereas, on June 4, 2018, Secretary Pompeo, participating in the Organization of American States General Assembly in the District of Columbia, stated, “In Nicaragua police and government-controlled armed groups have killed dozens, merely for peacefully protesting”;

Whereas, on June 7, 2018, the Department of State announced visa restrictions against individuals involved in human rights abuses or undermining democracy in Nicaragua;

Whereas, on June 20, 2018, the Department of State announced, “The United States condemns the ongoing government-sponsored violence and intimidation campaign in Nicaragua, including the June 16 arson attack

against the home and business of a family in Managua, killing six, and the further intimidation of the family during the wake”;

Whereas a report from the Asociación Nicaragüense Pro Derechos Humanos (Nicaraguan Association for Human Rights) states that as of June 25, 2018, at least 285 people have been killed, over 1,500 people have been injured, and 156 people continue to be disappeared;

Whereas the Catholic Church has played an important role serving as a mediator between protesters and the Government of Nicaragua, and Catholic bishops and priests have risked their lives trying to prevent more massacres; and

Whereas the United States House of Representatives has sought to reestablish democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua by passing H.R. 1918, the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act, on October 3, 2017, by unanimous consent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the violence, persecution, intimidation, and murders of peaceful protesters by the Government of Nicaragua;

(2) supports the people of Nicaragua in their pursuit for democracy, including their call for free and fair elections overseen by credible domestic and international observers;

(3) urges the international community to stand in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua;

(4) calls on the United States to continue to condemn the atrocities in Nicaragua, demand the release of individuals wrongfully detained, and identify those individuals whose involvement in this violence qualifies for the imposition of sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note); and

(5) affirms that—
(A) the rights to freedom of assembly, association, and expression, the freedom of the press, and freedom from extrajudicial detention and violence, are universal human rights that apply to all persons; and

(B) countries that fail to respect these rights jeopardize the security and prosperity of all of their citizens.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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 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, I would really like to begin by thanking our Foreign Affairs chairman emeritus, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and I do also want to thank my other colleagues on the committee. I also thank ALBIO SIRES for his work on this measure, along with Colonel Cook. I think it is very timely. It is very important.

I think, for those whose families have experienced what it is like under a totalitarian system, there is a special identification with what the victims are going through right now as a result of the authoritarian bent, right now, of President Daniel Ortega, the same Daniel Ortega we remember from 1979. But he lost an election, I think it was, in 1990. He has had five terms.

But in consolidating his power, he has moved to an authoritarian approach in tightening that grip where he has now resorted to using brutal force against the students on their campuses if they protest; brutal force against the people who seek refuge in the churches, shooting up the churches, something that Congressman JUAN VARGAS was talking to me about the other day; brutal force in the villages against those who protest, creating a situation with hundreds and hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries.

I can just tell you personally, I have a constituent and friend in the district, and she is from one of those villages. She saw me and gave me a little letter the other day about the fate of some of her neighbors who died at the hands of one of these attacks in the villages. They were murdered there on the streets of her small village.

I think the reason that this resolution represents such a broad, bipartisan consensus in this condemnation of Ortega’s regime is because of the nature of that violence. What this resolution does is support the people of Nicaragua in their pursuit of freedom.

Nicaraguans, understandably, want self-determination. They want an end to corruption. They are asking for free and fair elections. The international community—in particular, the Organization of American States regional leaders—must continue to stand with these brave students and church leaders and villagers who are being targeted and being assassinated by thugs working on behalf of and at the behest of Daniel Ortega.

When we think about this circumstance and other authoritarian leaders, one of the allies of Daniel Ortega is Nicolas Maduro. He uses these same tactics against the Venezuelan people, and the people deserve better than this.

This resolution shows this body’s commitment to standing shoulder to shoulder with those without a voice, seeking freedom from those authoritarians who are becoming dictators.

The administration was correct earlier this month in sanctioning three senior Nicaraguan officials for human rights abuses and corruption under the U.S. Global Magnitsky Act, a measure that we passed out of our committee, and that is something that this resolution affirms. But more can still be done.

This resolution encourages the administration to continue to pressure Ortega to stop the violence and to move forward with free and fair elections.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

In response to Ortega's brutal crackdown on peaceful protests and human rights violations, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 981, condemning the violence, persecution, and intimidation committed by the Government of Nicaragua against its citizens.

As we know, the Nicaraguan people are suffering as the Ortega government continues to punish citizens for pursuing greater democratic rights. Since Ortega came into power, he has worked hard to consolidate power in the hands of his family and party loyalists at the expense of Nicaraguan citizens.

The peaceful protests that began in April initially opposed the proposed government reform to social security. However, as Ortega ordered violent crackdowns by government security forces, the demonstrations gradually became a call for a more democratic Nicaragua.

The Catholic Church has attempted numerous times to mediate dialogue between Ortega and opposition groups, but the Ortega regime has repeatedly failed to uphold its end of the agreement. We are seeing new reports every week on how Ortega's paramilitary forces are opening fire against sanctuaries and shooting and injuring people seeking refuge in churches across the country. It is shameful. As negotiations over dialogue have devolved, hundreds of Nicaraguan citizens are estimated to have been killed, with thousands more injured.

Recently, international observers from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and the European Union have arrived in Nicaragua to begin investigating the violence. Now, many Nicaraguans are demanding political reform and the resignation of Ortega and his wife before the scheduled elections in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, the United States cannot stand idly by and ignore the demands of the Nicaraguan people while the Ortegas and his confidants push the country towards authoritarianism. That is why my colleagues, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, Ranking Member ENGEL, Chairman COOK, and I have introduced this bipartisan resolution condemning the ongoing violence in Nicaragua. We are urging the administration to impose sanctions on individuals who qualify under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

I have also worked with my friend ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to pass the Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act, to hold the regime accountable for its misuse of international loans. This bill would direct the U.S. to not support international loans to Nicaragua until the government increases transparency and has free and fair elections.

Unified pushback from the international community shows the courageous Nicaraguans on the ground that the world stands shoulder to shoulder with them. It is the only way for Ortega to see the writing on the wall. He has to give up his grip and enact long overdue and meaningful political reform that people are yearning for.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their continued bipartisanship on these important issues. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the chairman emeritus of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his amazing leadership and also Ranking Member ENGEL. They brought this important and timely resolution to the floor, and I am so grateful to have worked not only with Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, but also with Chairman COOK and Ranking Member SIREs of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee.

All of us introduced H. Res. 981, and this resolution, as Mr. SIREs and Mr. ROYCE have pointed out, condemns the persecution; it condemns the intimidation, the violence, and the murders that are being committed by the Government of Nicaragua against its citizens under the orders of Daniel Ortega.

Mr. Speaker, 450, that is how many Nicaraguans have been killed by Ortega's regime and its thugs just since April of this year. Heaven knows how many today or how many just these past days. The death toll is rising every day. And as the regime has now authorized a shoot-to-kill policy in cities like Masaya and Jinotega, shoot to kill against dissidents, against protesters, and add that to the thousands who have been injured, arrested, and forced disappearances, we are talking about a massive and severe repression by a regime that will do anything to stay in power. That is what this is all about. Ortega and his wife want to stay in power at all costs.

On Monday, Daniel Ortega had the nerve, the audacity, to go on our news channel, FOX News, American TV, to say that everything was under control in Nicaragua and that it was, in fact, the Nicaraguan people who were committing the acts of violence, that the Nicaraguan people are the ones responsible for the bloodshed. It is a desperate attempt by a desperate but dangerous fool.

Mr. Speaker, it is a dire situation, and it is getting worse by the day. That is why we need to hold Ortega accountable for his evil and violent acts and put additional pressure on his regime.

The administration has shown great leadership in condemning Ortega and in sanctioning some of his regime's top

officials under the Global Magnitsky Act.

□ 1330

My resolution urges the administration to do more, to target more of Ortega's goons for sanctions, and to urge this very body to do more, because time is of the essence.

The measure before us is simple and straightforward. It rightfully identifies Ortega, not the Nicaraguan people, as the orchestrator of the violence. It urges the administration to take more action against the regime. It also demonstrates our unwavering support for the people of Nicaragua in their support for democracy and their pursuit of justice. It includes the call for early, free, fair, and transparent elections overseen by domestic and international observers.

This resolution also calls upon responsible nations to stand in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua, because their silence has been deafening.

Today, this body is standing up for some of the most cherished values and ideals that we hold true to our hearts, and we are unequivocally rejecting the Ortega regime's abuses and its corruption. Today, we can send a strong, unified, and clear message that we are watching; we are acting; and we are supporting the aspirations of all freedom-loving Nicaraguans.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Florida an additional 1 minute.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, in my congressional district, I am so blessed to have so many Nicaraguan Americans. In fact, one of them is right here behind me, Gaby Boffelli, who is very proud of her Nicaraguan heritage, and she keeps me abreast of what is happening in Nicaragua every day.

My constituents tell me they are heartbroken about the situation. They are heartbroken because people don't seem to be paying attention. But they know that the United States Congress is standing with them. Today, with this vote, we will stand ever so strongly with them.

Ortega is receiving help, as the chairman pointed out, from Venezuela's Maduro, from Castro in Cuba, and from Diaz-Canel in Cuba. These thugs know how to repress and kill dissidents.

Let's do the right thing. Let's not stand with the oppressors. Let's stand with the people of Nicaragua.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

In response to Ortega's brutal crackdown on peaceful protests and human rights violations, H. Res. 981 condemns the violence, persecution, and intimidation committed by the Government of Nicaragua against its citizens.

The Nicaragua National Police, or militias, controlled by the Nicaraguan

Government have murdered, detained, and tortured innocent people peacefully standing up for their rights. Stories of Nicaraguan protesters being electrocuted and waterboarded by gangs aligned with the Ortega regime continue to horrify the international community.

While the Ortegas may condemn foreign interference in their affairs, let us be clear: The United States condemns the violence, the persecution, the intimidation, and the murders of peaceful protesters by the Ortega security forces and his henchmen.

We support the people of Nicaragua in their pursuit for democracy, including their call for free and fair elections overseen by credible domestic and international observers, and we demand that Nicaragua release those individuals wrongfully detained by the government.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ED ROYCE and ELIOT ENGEL. I want to take this opportunity to thank ED ROYCE for his last 3 years of bipartisan work. I want to tell the gentleman that I really appreciate being on his committee and serving with him on this committee. I thank the gentleman for his service.

I also want to thank both my good friend ELIOT ENGEL as well, who is my counterpart on the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, and Chairman PAUL COOK for their strong bipartisan leadership.

I also want to thank my good friend from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, whom I have worked with and admired for many, many years, for her decades of unwavering dedication to promoting democracy and human rights around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge all Members 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, I shared with this body the letter from my constituent and neighbor outlining what had happened to her village where she had grown up and how she had lost friends at the hands of a gang allied with Daniel Ortega quite recently who attacked the village. So I want to thank ALBIO SIREs, Chairman Emeritus ROS-LEHTINEN, and others who worked on this resolution for bringing this bipartisan measure forward.

I want to thank them for their continued leadership. Because of the continued attacks on demonstrators in Nicaragua, the shooting up of churches, and the threatening of priests there, hundreds of protesters have been murdered, and thousands more have been injured. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is imperative that this body, and our friends and allies across the region, continue to call on Daniel Ortega to end the violence and to allow free and fair elections in Nicaragua.

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 981, and to condemn the Ortega regime's escalating, brutal campaign against its own people.

Ortega has now been in charge of Nicaragua for 22 of the last 39 years. After years of consolidating power by installing his wife as vice president, and gradually chipping away at the power of the judiciary and congress, Ortega has now dropped all pretense of being anything other than an authoritarian leader.

More than 300 people have now died in Nicaragua for having the courage to speak out against his and his wife's dictatorial rule. Ortega has now shown himself willing to target members of the clergy for fulfilling their sacred duty to recognize the value of human life, and for putting themselves in harm's way to try to protect their people.

This should be unacceptable to the U.S. and to the international community. I commend my colleague Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN for taking a stand, and I encourage the executive branch to use all non-military means available to hold Ortega accountable for these deaths and to stop the carnage in Nicaragua.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 981, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENERGY DIPLOMACY ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5535) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 regarding energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5535

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 "Energy Diplomacy Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) ENERGY RESOURCES.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Subject to the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1), there is authorized to be established in the Department of State an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources.

“(B) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that there are sufficient per-

sonnel dedicated to energy matters within the Department of State who shall be responsible for—

“(i) formulating and implementing international policies, in coordination with Secretary of Energy, as appropriate, aimed at protecting and advancing United States energy security interests by effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations in the fields of petroleum, natural gas, biofuels, renewable energy, nuclear, and other energy resources;

“(ii) ensuring that analyses of the national security implications of global energy and environmental developments are reflected in the decision making process within the Department of State;

“(iii) incorporating energy security priorities into the activities of the Department of State;

“(iv) coordinating energy activities within the Department of State and with relevant Federal agencies;

“(v) working internationally to—

“(I) support the development of energy resources and the distribution of such resources for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security and economic development needs;

“(II) promote availability of diversified energy supplies and a well-functioning global market for energy resources, technologies, and expertise for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners;

“(III) resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy resources;

“(IV) support the economic and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries; and

“(V) support and coordinate international efforts to alleviate energy poverty;

“(vi) leading the United States commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;

“(vii) coordinating within the Department of State and with relevant Federal departments and agencies on developing and implementing international energy-related sanctions; and

“(viii) coordinating energy security and other relevant functions within the Department of State currently undertaken by—

“(I) the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs of the Department of State;

“(II) the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the Department of State; and

“(III) other offices within the Department of State.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 931 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17371) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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