

cannot stop now. That is why legislation such as this bipartisan legislation is so important for us to pass.

This, in law, represents the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel and the shared interests and values that have been the hallmark of this relationship.

The Middle East is a very dangerous neighborhood. We here in the United States have the benefit of stepping back a bit, but we are not on the front line day in and day out the way the beleaguered people of Israel are with one country after another vowing to try to destroy it.

This Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, stands together and says that the United States stands with the people of Israel, and that makes me very proud of this Congress, proud of our Foreign Affairs Committee, proud of our chairman, and proud of all the people who have spoken, particularly ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who deserves all the accolades you can think of. Whatever I said wouldn't be dramatic enough to explain the force that she has been for the past 30 years on the Foreign Affairs Committee doing good things, particularly with the State of Israel.

It is going to be difficult to not see her here, but I know she will be doing everything that she can continue to do to enhance the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

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

The democratic Jewish State of Israel is a friend and a major strategic partner of the United States. Israel is a beacon, as Ileana shared with us, of freedom, of democracy, of stability in the otherwise troubled Middle East. In short, it is the very opposite of the brutal and corrupt Iranian regime.

Iran has never made its threats to Israel a secret, and that is what they mean when the Ayatollah says: "Death to Israel; death to America."

After years of moving the pieces into place, including by showering its proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, with money and with rockets and with missiles and attempting to exploit the conflict in Syria to build a military presence and support base there on the border, it is slowly but surely preparing to make good on this threat. With this bill, we can ensure that Israel has the tools to defend it self and defend our shared interests in the face of that mounting threat.

I do thank our ranking member, ELIOT ENGEL, and I do thank TED DEUTCH for all of the bipartisan cooperation that has allowed us to move so many measures through the committee, through the Senate, and into law.

I also want, in closing, to thank and to note that I was the beneficiary of the good work of my predecessor in this position, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, when I took over the committee 6

years ago, and for that I am also very thankful.

I am thankful for the contributions that all of these individuals have made to the betterment of our defense, the security of the United States, the security of our allies. I am proud of the fact that we have done it in a bipartisan way.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the House amendment to S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

This bill would enshrine in law the 2016 U.S. Memorandum of Understanding that the Obama Administration reached with Israel.

This landmark agreement provides for historic levels of security cooperation with and assistance to Israel. Enacting this legislation would send an unmistakable message to Israel's enemies that the American commitment to Israel's security is ironclad.

Israel continually faces threats from all sides, and we have the responsibility to be sure that Israelis have everything they need in order to defend her citizens.

Whether it's missiles, tunnels, arson kites, or potential border breaches from Hamas in Gaza, rockets from Hezbollah in Lebanon, drones from Iranian forces in Syria, or whatever other lethal attempt may be devised, Israel must be ready to combat whatever comes her way.

Mr. Speaker, Israel's security is nonnegotiable. With enemies committed to the country's destruction throughout the entirety of its 70-year existence, Israel's qualitative military edge is absolutely necessary, and I am pleased that this bill ensures that this edge will be maintained.

Even amidst persistent security threats, Israel has been a remarkable leader in technological and humanitarian endeavors. This legislation, by enhancing U.S.-Israeli cooperation in space exploration and international development, will strengthen both of our countries and many other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that the U.S.-Israel relationship remains strong far into the future, I can think of no more fitting namesake for this bill than my friend and colleague, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Israel has a true friend and supporter in Ileana, and as she departs at the end of this Congress, we will all be well served to follow her example of working across the aisle to ensure that American support for Israel remains unbreakable.

To that end, I proudly urge the passage of the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2018.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House Amendment to S. 2497, the Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act. As Israel faces growing threats from Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas, this bill reaffirms the United States' strong belief that Israel has the right to defend herself and ensures that Israel has the means to do so. Passage of this bill will send a powerful message to Israel's adversaries: the United States will continue to stand with Israel. I will note that this bill is appropriately named for my good friend, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-

LEHTINEN, who as we all know is departing at the end of this Congress. Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN has been a strong supporter of Israel, a champion of democracy across the world, and one of this chamber's true believers in the ideal of bipartisan foreign policy. So I thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership, and I urge all my colleagues to support this important measure.

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, S. 2497, 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.

□ 1745

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1911) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1911

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 "Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that since the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and variety of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries anti-Semitic attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

SEC. 3. MONITORING AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 59 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2731) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting before the period at the end the following: "who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate"; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary."; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, but striking "APPOINTMENT" and inserting "NOMINATION";

(ii) by striking the first sentence;

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking "If the Secretary determines that such is appropriate, the Secretary may appoint" and inserting "If the President determines that such is appropriate, the President may nominate"; and

(iv) in the third sentence, by striking "The Secretary may allow such officer or employee to retain the position (and the responsibilities associated with such position) held

by such officer or employee prior to the appointment" and inserting "Such officer or employee may not retain the position (or the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the nomination"; and

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

"(3) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall serve as the primary advisor to, and coordinate efforts across, the United States Government relating to monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.

"(4) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambassador.

"(5) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of—

"(A) combating anti-Semitism;

"(B) religious freedom; or

"(C) law enforcement."

(b) NOMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 120 after any such position becomes vacant, the President shall nominate the Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating anti-Semitism under section 59 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) 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, disturbingly, incidents of anti-Semitism are on the increase across Europe, across the Middle East, frankly, across the world. As Moshe Kantor, the vice president of the World Jewish Caucus, has said: "We are witnessing a global process of radicalization. . . . Unfortunately, and with no surprise, the common element that unifies radicals seems to be their hatred of Jews."

Today, anti-Semitism is increasingly being acted upon and, in some cases, even institutionalized. Country by country, we are seeing school curriculums attempting to indoctrinate children and attempting to spread hate. We are seeing courts and legislation institutionalize anti-Semitism. And we are seeing acts of violence against the Jewish people and their places of worship being excused.

How do they rationalize it? Under the guise of a political protest.

It is critical that the U.S. play a leading role to stop this scourge of hate. Yet for more than a year and a half, the top position at the State De-

partment charged with combating anti-Semitism worldwide has remained vacant.

Further, for more than 1 year, the office has also been completely unstaffed. This is unacceptable. I have raised this issue before.

As a senior official at the State Department reminded world leaders this past winter: "Absent action, the sacred pledge of 'never again' can become empty rhetoric."

We cannot allow that to happen, and the bill before us today, H.R. 1911, will help reassert U.S. leadership in combating anti-Semitism worldwide. It will mandate the expeditious appointment of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and it will elevate the office to ambassadorial rank with direct access to the Secretary of State.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 1911.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud original cosponsor of this bill, and I am pleased that we are considering it today.

I want to start by thanking my colleagues for their hard work on this bill and their hard work on this effort: Congressman CHRIS SMITH, the author of this legislation, and my fellow co-chairs of the Bipartisan Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism. I am proud to stand with a group of legislators committed to fighting intolerance and hatred.

Mr. Speaker, every day, more and more alarming anti-Semitic attacks shock the world: Holocaust survivors violently assaulted, rallies and parades glorifying Nazi leaders, swastikas graffitied to incite fear and terror. The list goes on and on.

And let's be clear, Mr. Speaker, this isn't just happening in faraway places. We have seen a sickening increase of anti-Semitic acts in our country as well. We have seen people who embrace hatred and bigotry given a loud new megaphone to spread their poison.

As a country, we need to come together to say enough is enough. We need to say there are not good people on both sides. We need to confront evil, call it by its name, and say there is no place for it anywhere in the United States or around the world.

We all need to do it as citizens. We need to do so in our laws and in our policies. And the very least that we could do is have the administration fill the positions that are supposed to be dealing with this issue. The Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism position at the State Department is still vacant. That is really unacceptable.

We must have a senior official to push back against the intolerance and hatred of anti-Semitism. American leadership is desperately needed in the fight against this ancient form of hatred. I am fed up with the administra-

tion dragging its feet on filling this crucial position. It should happen now.

That is why I am glad we are moving this bill forward. This legislation would elevate the Special Envoy position and require the President to put forward a nominee no more than 120 days after a vacancy. That is 4 months.

This is essential for making sure that a prolonged vacancy like we have right now never happens again.

We must have a senior State Department official dedicated to coordinating U.S. Government efforts to combat anti-Semitism abroad. So I strongly support this measure, and I ask my colleagues to join me doing so.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. He is the author of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this legislation on the issue itself; ELIOT ENGEL, of course, who has been a great friend, a part of this Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism; and you, Mr. Presiding Speaker, you are one of the cosponsors. We have 83 bipartisan cosponsors, and this is an idea whose time has come.

I especially want to thank Leader MCCARTHY for making sure the bill got to the floor today, for his leadership and strong support for it.

Anti-Semitism, Mr. Speaker, is exploding. Just look around in any country in the world, look at the human rights reports that are out there, and it is a problem here in the United States as well. It is exploding.

My first trip to the Soviet Union, now Russia, of course, was in 1982 on behalf of Soviet refuseniks. When I saw what that country was doing to individual Jewish men and women and families, I became committed then. I worked with Mr. HASTINGS on this for many, many years with the Helsinki Commission, to try to combat this ever escalating scourge of anti-Semitism. It is an age-old scourge. It is bad, and it is getting worse.

There is a persistent anti-Semitism, as I think my colleagues know, that historically has manifested itself throughout European history, from pogroms in Russia, to the Dreyfus affair, to Nazism in the 1930s, and, of course, the Holocaust right up until its modern-day iterations.

This has been joined, however, by two other streams of hate: one emanating from the world of militant Islam and one that is sometimes fomented by countries such as Iran. Strains of this new anti-Semitism can be heard in the demand of the BDS movement—boycott, divestment, sanctions—which always singles out Israel and rarely other countries like China

who engage in pervasive human rights abuse.

My friend and former Soviet refugee, Natan Sharansky, testified at two of my hearings on combating anti-Semitism. He proposed what he called a simple test to help us distinguish between legitimate criticism of Israel from anti-Semitism. Sharansky called it the “three Ds: demonization, double standard, and delegitimization.”

First, demonization. When Israel's actions are blown all out of sensible proportions, and when comparisons are made between Israelis and the Nazis, which is absolutely sick and pathetic, this is anti-Semitism, not a legitimate criticism of Israel.

Second, double standard. When criticism of Israel is applied selectively, when Israel is singled out, libeled, and slandered by the U.N. Human Rights Council, for example, while the behavior or other egregious violators like China, Iran, Cuba, and Syria are largely ignored, that, too, is anti-Semitism.

The third “D” is delegitimization. In other words, Israel does not have a fundamental right to exist.

In light of this, there is an urgent need for a comprehensive U.S. Government approach.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, there is a need for a comprehensive approach. In 2004, I offered an amendment that became law to create the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and also the amendment that created the Special Envoy. And I do call on President Trump to name that Special Envoy.

This elevates it to ambassador, so there will be additional gravitas so that this individual, whoever he or she may be, will have the ability to have direct access to the Secretary of State on the issue of combating anti-Semitism.

The bill also prohibits the position from being double-hatted. We know how that happens. All of a sudden, one person does all these different kinds of portfolios and becomes the master of none.

It also requires, as ELIOT ENGEL said a moment ago, that, within 90 days of enactment of this act and thereafter, we need this name and we need this to be put forward so that we can get that person on the job and doing this great work.

Again, I look around at people who are getting ready to speak, PETER ROSKAM, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, 83 cosponsors, totally bipartisan, and absolutely needed.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

(Mr. HASTINGS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, and I rise in support of this measure.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), one of the chairs of the Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism, and, again, a very esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and an original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Ranking Member ENGEL. I rise in support of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act, and I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for leading this bill and all of my colleagues for their support.

It has been more than a year and a half since this administration came into office, and this position remains vacant. Aside from some rumors around Washington, we don't know when this role will be filled.

This position was created in 2004 with bipartisan support. I am sure my colleagues would agree that Congress doesn't pass laws for them to be ignored.

It is imperative that there is someone at the State Department working to combat anti-Semitism globally. They should be working with Jewish communities, building coalitions, tracking cases, and pushing governments to do more to combat it. We need someone who will be our Nation's leading global advocate to combat anti-Semitism.

We are seeing Jewish communities outside the United States and Israel shrink because they no longer feel safe in their own cities. We are hearing truly appalling stories, horrific stories like the Holocaust survivor who was brutally murdered in her apartment. We are feeling the hate speech rise, whether by politicians on extreme sides of the political spectrum or individuals empowered and amplified by social media.

We urgently need someone in our government charged with addressing this scourge. This is not a time to abdicate our proud and historic leading role of pushing governments to protect their Jewish community, because if there is anti-Semitism that is growing in a country, it means that there is hatred growing in that country, and, ultimately, everyone is at risk.

Our government cannot be silent in these moments. Filling this position must be a top priority. I call on my colleagues to support this bill, which will send a strong statement to the world that the United States remains committed to combat this bigotry and to defend Jewish communities and to fight hatred.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and ranking member. I am proud to be a cosponsor of

Mr. SMITH's very important bill, H.R. 1911, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.

As a founding member and co-chair of the Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism, I have been urging the administration to make the Special Envoy position at the State Department a priority and to fill that position as soon as possible.

In recent years, the spike in anti-Jewish violence and harassment has been alarming, and not just in Europe, sadly, but across the globe, and even here in our own wonderful Nation.

□ 1800

It is also worrisome that we are seeing anti-Semitism couched and disguised in anti-Israel political rhetoric.

This bill ensures that we have someone at the Ambassador level giving these issues full attention, and with access to the highest-level officials in other nations.

I am also proud to have my amendment included in the bill, which adds a deadline for the appointment, 90 days from enactment of this act, and 120 days from when this position becomes vacant.

Even though current law states that there shall be an appointment, there is no clarity on whether an administration has a finite time to make one. So this is why it is important that we add a deadline to fill this Special Envoy position as quickly as possible.

I encourage all my colleagues to support Mr. SMITH's important bill, H.R. 1911; and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, if there are no other speakers on the other side, I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I have one more speaker. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and co-chair of the bipartisan Task Force on Combating Anti-Semitism.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, there is a quotation that is familiar that is brought to my attention this afternoon as we are debating this, and it has echoes for today. It is by Martin Niemöller, who was a Lutheran pastor in Germany; and this is what he said:

“First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak for me.”

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity to do something good today, to build on the work that Congressman SMITH has initiated and that has been shepherded through this process by Chairman ROYCE and by Ranking Member ENGEL; and that is to recognize the

growing rise of anti-Semitism around the world and to say, we are not only not going to be complicit in it, we are going to speak out about it, and we are going to bring attention to it, and we are going to bring the full force and power of the United States Government and its moral authority and its imprimatur on this issue. There is real power in that.

You have heard both sides going back and forth sort of being reminded of this responsibility that we have because we have seen anti-Semitism, Mr. Speaker, arise within the last year alone in Germany, in Brazil, in France, in Hungary, and in New Zealand.

In closing, the Anti-Defamation League has pointed out that in the last year alone there have been over 4 million English language tweets that are anti-Semitic. This is upon us.

So what Congressman SMITH has initiated now is to raise the status of this person to make sure they are not just a Special Envoy, but to raise that to ambassadorial status for all the obvious reasons; to get this person appointed quickly; and to have this post filled and brought with real authority.

I urge its passage, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I want to, again, strongly support this bipartisan bill. I want to thank all the people who have worked hard on it, particularly Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, who always, for years, has been battling the scourge of anti-Semitism; our chairman, Chairman ROYCE, and people on both sides of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

We can never become complacent when we see anti-Semitism, or anti anything rear its ugly head. We need to reject it. We need to fight it. We need to shine a light in all the dark corners so it has no place to hide and fester.

What does it look like when it comes to foreign policy? It starts by appointing a senior diplomat, someone we can point to with confidence and say, "You're leading America's effort to grapple with this problem around the world."

This bill would make sure that that seat can't stay vacant the way it has been for the last 18 months. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. I, again, thank Mr. SMITH, Chairman ROYCE, and all the people who have worked so hard for this.

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

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

We have seen the horrific consequences when free societies turn a blind eye to anti-Semitic incitement and to anti-Semitic violence. Passage of this bill reaffirms that combating anti-Semitism is a top priority for the United States, and it will fill the Special Envoy position and provide it with adequate staff that is going to strengthen our ability to work with our partners overseas.

So I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and 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. 1911, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

URGING ALL NATIONS TO OUTLAW THE DOG AND CAT MEAT TRADE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 401) urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, and all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against the trade, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 401

Whereas the consumption of dog meat has occurred in every corner of the world including in Asia;

Whereas established dog meat markets still exist in Asia;

Whereas the Humane Society International, Animals Asia Foundation, and others estimate that 30,000,000 dogs and 10,000,000 cats die annually across Asia for the trade in dog and cat meat;

Whereas it is estimated as many as 200,000 live dogs are trafficked each year from Thailand across the Mekong River to Vietnam, where dog meat is considered a delicacy;

Whereas cat meat, known locally as "little tiger", is also a delicacy in Vietnam and, although officially banned, is widely available in specialty restaurants;

Whereas due to a traditional belief that high adrenaline levels produce tender meat and increase supposed health benefits, dogs killed for their meat may be first intentionally subjected to extreme fear and suffering through hanging or bludgeoning;

Whereas there appears to be little scientific evidence to support traditional claims of the health benefits of consuming dog meat;

Whereas there have been reports of abuse, poor living conditions, and cruel slaughtering techniques with respect to dogs and cats farmed for their meat;

Whereas many dogs and cats die during transport to slaughterhouses, after days or weeks crammed into small cages on the back of vehicles without food or water, and others suffer from illness or injury during such transport;

Whereas in February 2015, Vietnamese authorities impounded a truck in Hanoi smuggling three tons of live cats from China that were intended for the illegal cat meat trade, but then buried thousands of the seized cats—many, reportedly, while alive—claiming a desire to avoid the spread of disease;

Whereas the extreme suffering of dogs and cats at such slaughterhouses and on such transportation trucks would breach anti-cruelty laws in the United States, such as the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.);

Whereas many government officials, civil society advocates, and activists are working to end the dog and cat meat trade on anti-cruelty and public health grounds, and the governments of Singapore, Taiwan, and Hong Kong have passed laws banning the slaughter of dogs for meat consumption;

Whereas Chinese activists have claimed that stolen pets are sometimes used in the dog meat market in China;

Whereas Chinese dog transporters reportedly routinely flout regulations such as the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Bureau Circular No. 16 (2013), which requires dogs to be quarantined and issued a quarantine certificate before being transported across provincial boundaries;

Whereas the World Health Organization has linked the dog meat industry to human outbreaks of trichinellosis, cholera, and rabies, although consumption of dog meat alone has not been confirmed to spread rabies to humans;

Whereas those involved in the dog meat industry are at an increased health risk for zoonotic diseases, which can transfer from dogs to humans through infectious material such as saliva;

Whereas the spread of such diseases may be exacerbated by unsanitary conditions of slaughter and by the sale of dog meat at open-air markets and restaurants; and

Whereas Betsy Miranda, Asia Coordinator for the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, said in June 2013 that the spread of disease through the dog meat trade was "rampant" across Southeast Asia, and that "The risk that the animals are in poor health and not vaccinated is very high. If they move across borders they risk carrying the disease across large distances". Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls for an end to the dog and cat meat trade on cruelty and public health grounds;

(2) urges all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and enforce existing laws against such trade; and

(3) affirms the commitment of the United States to the protection of animals and to advancing the progress of animal protection around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) 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 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 want to thank Mr. HASTINGS for authoring this important measure on the dog and cat meat trade. It is an important issue to animal