

and our bill ensures we can freeze money and stop those traffickers in their tracks. This is good policy that will protect families, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Keeping Arizonans safe is my top priority. We are also set to pass a bipartisan bill I introduced with Congressman TIPTON to protect America from terrorists and rogue states like North Korea and Iran.

This week, the President has addressed the United Nations to call for action to stop weapons proliferation and other threats in Iran. In Congress, we are taking bipartisan action to combat these same threats.

Our bill, the Improving Strategies to Counter Weapons Proliferation Act, makes it harder for America's enemies to get their hands on the world's most deadly weapons by helping choke off the financing of terrorist activity. This bill makes our country safer and our communities safer, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Finally, we must always ensure that our support for veterans is worthy of their sacrifice, and that is why I worked across the aisle with Congressman ZELDIN and Congresswoman TENNEY to introduce and pass the Protect Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act. This bill fixes the law and protects veterans from higher costs to refinance their homes. Our actions help more Arizona veterans achieve the American Dream of homeownership, and, again, I would urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan fix that helps America's heroes.

These three bills show that we can get things done and deliver for everyday Arizonans if we just work together and find common ground, and I will continue to work across the aisle to keep Arizona families safe and ensure we honor our commitment to our veterans and military families.

In particular, I want to thank Congresswoman WAGNER, Congressman TIPTON, and Congresswoman TENNEY for working together on these important bills, and I urge my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), and I ask unanimous consent that she be allowed to control that time.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to reiterate, despite what some have said about this piece of legislation, that this legislation requires NGOs to register with Treasury in order to create a process that protects only rigorous, credible organizations that can offer verifiable information to financial institutions. This process will safeguard innocent

people and entities that may currently be targeted by the broad, general patterns that are reported to financial institutions.

At present, there is no way for financial institutions to wade through all the tips and information they receive and use it to prevent traffickers from using our financial systems. We need a meaningful system that can actually identify traffickers and allow banks to verify those IDs. That is what this bill does.

I would also like to make clear that this piece of legislation does not amend or touch the PATRIOT Act and does not create any new structures for banks to share information with each other.

This legislation is supported by organizations, including, Mr. Speaker, Western Union, MoneyGram, and Liberty Asia. It also happens to be one of the key recommendations from Polaris' groundbreaking new report: "A Road Map for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking."

Mr. Speaker, I include the report in the RECORD.

2. Pass legislation to provide safe harbor to facilitate information sharing between civil society and financial institutions

NGOs that work with survivors and vulnerable populations often have access to critical information about bad actors. Regulations focused on the sharing of information between financial institutions or between financial institutions and government agencies, such as Section 314(a) and (b) of the USA Patriot Act or the regulations for filing Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs), provide appropriate protections for such sharing. No such protections are currently available to NGOs for sharing critical information that may assist in the detection, deterrence or prevention of trafficking.

While NGOs are currently able to report tips directly to law enforcement, the information may be too limited to realistically spur law enforcement action—often because the information is obtained from confidential sources who cannot be contacted by law enforcement. However, if these leads were provided to financial institutions, the financial institutions may be able to assist in providing additional, relevant, and actionable information to law enforcement.

Addressing the liability concerns of NGOs which wish to participate in information exchanges is an important first step in actualizing this process. Legislation is required to provide these protections to NGOs. Once this barrier is removed, law enforcement, NGOs, and financial institutions can work together to develop agreed upon processes and protocols that govern appropriate information sharing.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, Dow Jones has said that the information provided to it from NGOs like Liberty Asia and others is relevant and actionable in its anti-money laundering work.

This bill enables FinCEN and financial institutions to gather hard intelligence that can be verified or disproven, rather than rely on, as I said, general, useless, or even faulty tips from nonprofits, private citizens, and other sources without technical experience that could lead to false identi-

fications and persecution of innocent actors.

It is the lack of verifiable specificity and the lack of regulated accreditation that allows for the targeting of innocent groups.

This bill creates a process, run by Treasury, where responsible nonprofits that professionally analyze information and create intelligence products that help financial institutions better identify these crimes can share information without worrying about whether sharing this information is going to end their organizations.

I could go on and on, but Members of this body should never forget what we are doing today is protecting the 40 million victims of trafficking around the world.

Human trafficking is a horrific crime that represents \$150 billion per year, and it is far too often funded by the U.S. financial system. This is preventable, and today, we are taking steps towards ending America's financing of exploitation of our most vulnerable.

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 Colorado (Mr. TIPTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6729.

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. AMASH. 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 6157;

Adoption of H. Res. 1071;

Adoption of H. Res. 1082; and

The motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 6729.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6157, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on adoption of the conference report on the bill (H.R. 6157) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.