

It requires the Secretary of State to work with the Secretary of Defense and the USAID administrator to create a comprehensive strategy. By coordinating our diplomatic, military, and development efforts at home and with partners abroad, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act strengthens our response to the international security threats facing these regions of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership is an important program that will enhance our international security efforts in an area that demands attention.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, 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 author of this legislation.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, both of them this Congress, in their leadership. We are going to miss Chairman ROYCE as we move on to the end of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of this bill, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act. This bill will strengthen our counterterrorism operations in Africa, an area where the threat of terrorism is rapidly rising.

While our attention has been focused on the Middle East, terrorism in Africa has spread.

Our military successes in Iraq and Syria have splintered ISIS, squeezed terrorists out of the Middle East, and sent them fleeing to Africa.

The numbers, Mr. Speaker, are alarming. On the eve of 9/11, it is important to point out, that al-Qaida on the eve of 9/11 only had a few hundred followers. Today, it is estimated that 10,000 ISIS and al-Qaida jihadists have established bases across the continent.

Along with other existing terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, terrorism is taking hold in Africa and prohibiting its prosperity.

My bill, which I introduced with my friend, Mr. KEATING, authorizes, for the first time, a program called the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. This program works with countries such as Chad, Mali, and Nigeria to build their capacity to conduct counterterrorism operations and strengthen the rule of law.

Furthermore, my bill requires the State Department, USAID, and the Defense Department to work together to develop a counterterrorism strategy in Africa. By taking a multifaceted approach, we may be able to prevent terrorism from gaining a larger foothold in these countries.

Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to thank Mr. KEATING, Chairman ROYCE, and Ranking Member ENGEL for all of their support in this important legislation.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who chairs the Subcommittee on the Middle East and north Africa and is the former chair of the Africa Subcommittee as well.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership, for their bipartisan spirit, for everything that they are doing to bring our Congress together. We need more of them around here. I thank them for bringing Mr. MCCAUL's bill to the floor today. I thank my esteemed Foreign Affairs Committee colleague, MICHAEL MCCAUL, for his authorship of this important bill.

The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act codifies an important program, the program after which the bill is named, and helps build partner capacity in a critical region of the world.

Thanks to Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL, I recently had the privilege of leading a delegation to one of those partner countries, Morocco, where I met with the Moroccan equivalent of the FBI. On the front lines of terrorism in north Africa and the Sahel, Morocco has successfully thwarted plot after plot that was threatening U.S. interests, and is positioned to play an even bigger role in our joint counterterrorism efforts.

Programs like the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership help bring law enforcement services in places like Morocco even closer together, allowing us to share information about terrorist groups like ISIS, al-Qaida, Hezbollah, and helps to protect our homeland.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support Mr. MCCAUL's important bill, and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for yielding me time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I, again, want to thank Mr. MCCAUL for his hard work on this measure and to Chairman ROYCE for moving it forward.

This bill authorizes a very important program that strengthens our efforts to assist partners in the Sahel and Maghreb to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and 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, in conclusion, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act mandates an important interagency effort to combat terrorism and to prevent the spread of radical extremism. It increases congressional oversight by requiring increased reporting and regular monitoring and evaluation, frankly, of all of our programs. In doing so, through programs like TSCTP and with just a relatively

small amount of foreign assistance dollars, we are investing in the future stability of these nations and their own ability to defeat terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MIKE MCCAUL for 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. 6018, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6784, MANAGE OUR WOLVES ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2018, THROUGH NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-1022) on the resolution (H. Res. 1142) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6784) to provide for removal of the gray wolf in the contiguous 48 States from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife published under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and providing for proceedings during the period from November 19, 2018, through November 26, 2018, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6064, by the yeas and nays; and