

of our foreign service officers through their electronic devices.

From Fitbits and smartwatches to phones and cars, most of us have at least one tracking device with us at all times. Many of us would literally be lost without these devices, but they pose security risks as well.

This commonsense measure would make sure the Secretary of State has a policy in place on using location tracking consumer devices at our diplomatic and consular facilities around the world.

This is a good bill that passed the House unanimously in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage again today.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me first congratulate Mr. ENGEL on his ascension to the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I can't think of a better chairman to work with than Mr. ENGEL, who is always bipartisan, always says that partisanship stops at the water's edge. And I know, being a national security committee, that we will conduct ourselves with dignity and respect for each other. We may disagree from time to time, but we will always respect each other. I look forward to working with him in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I sponsored with Mr. CASTRO of Texas, the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act.

Last year, a report revealed the risk of using wearable technologies such as Fitbits and Apple watches which use GPS tracking. As the report stated, researchers were able to track the movements of deployed troops in overseas locations. This obviously poses an enormous security risk for our soldiers overseas. Enemies could track patrol routes or discover the location of secret foreign installments.

This exposure puts our diplomats at risk as well. We have men and women engaging in diplomatic efforts all over the world, often in sensitive and high-risk areas. We must not make it easier for our enemies to track their movements.

As such, our bill requires the Department of State to establish a policy on the use of location tracking consumer devices by diplomats at U.S. facilities around the world. We introduced this bill last year, and it passed in a large bipartisan fashion.

I want to thank Mr. CASTRO for his leadership, as well as Chairman ENGEL for his work on this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act is a commonsense way to improve the safety of U.S. personnel overseas.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I think protecting our diplomats and ensuring sensitive and classified areas is really critical to our national security. This bill does that.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Chairman ENGEL's leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I look forward to continue working with Chairman ENGEL to advance U.S. foreign policy and national security this Congress.

I'd also like to thank my colleague from Texas, Ranking Member MICHAEL McCAUL, for authoring this measure with me.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Foreign Service Offices voluntarily serve in some of the most dangerous pockets of the world to advance U.S. national interests and security abroad.

Changing technologies force us to adapt our security practices to ensure our diplomats' safety.

This includes threats posed by location-tracking consumer devices that reveal physical locations and movements.

I was glad to reintroduce the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act last week with Ranking Member McCAUL.

This legislation requires the State Department to account for location-tracking consumer devices in broader U.S. embassy and consulate security policies.

As lawmakers, we have a moral obligation to ensure our men and women in the line of duty have the protections they deserve.

This legislation does just that.

Protecting our nation's frontline civilians is not a partisan issue, it's an American issue.

We must ensure our security policies and practices nimbly adapt to evolving technologies and tactics used by our enemies.

That's why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 115 the "Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act," which directs the State Department to establish a policy on location-tracking consumer devices at U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities around the world and requires employees to be briefed on the policies and procedures during routine security briefings.

H.R. 115 also requires the Secretary of State to coordinate with heads of any other agencies whose employees are deployed to or stationed at U.S. facilities in formulating this policy.

I support this legislation because, among other things, with the enactment of this act, the Secretary of State shall establish a policy on the use of location-tracking devices, including GPS-enabled devices, at United States facilities, both at home and abroad.

This act clarifies that U.S. employees will be kept updated and notified about the use of location-tracking consumer devices both on and off the premises of U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities.

The State Department is the critical go-between when dealing with international affairs and foreign policy issues, and this act will expand their duties by protecting the privacy rights of Diplomats and resident employees in this new age of technology.

Location-tracking information can be stored within a device or transmitted to an outside server, both storing the data, and giving real time location of said device.

Mr. Speaker, in this day and age, most smart phone users have location-tracking apps open on their device at all times; an estimated 90 percent of smart phone owners in 2015 use location-based services, and have them on all times.

For example, weather apps, which an estimated 65 percent of adults share their location with and check daily, require the users' location to provide accurate weather information.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 115 and upholding the importance of the privacy of our employees in consular and diplomatic facilities, and ensuring that all persons involved are aware and educated about the upholding policies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 115.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 133) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 133

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 "United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States and Mexico have benefitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

(2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy reforms that opened its energy sector to private investment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico and the United States and opening new opportunities for United States energy engagement.

(3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State stated, "Our exchange programs build enduring relationships and networks to advance U.S. national interests and foreign policy goals . . . The role of our exchanges . . . in advancing U.S. national security and economic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong return on investment."

(4) According to the Institute of International Education, in the 2015–2016 academic year, more than 56,000 United States students studied in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region while more than 84,000 non-United States students from the region studied in the United States, but only 5,000 of those United States students studied

in Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States students were from Mexico.

(5) In March 2011, the United States launched the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which seeks to increase educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.

(6) In January 2014, the United States established the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, which seeks to realize the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facilitating a public-private partnership between the Department of State and nongovernmental organizations, corporations, and universities in the United States and other countries of the Western Hemisphere region.

(7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100 grants to more than 250 higher education institutions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere region, and has raised \$9,000,000 in investments, 75 percent of which was from corporations, foundations, and regional governments.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue deepening economic cooperation between the United States and Mexico; and

(2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) encourage more academic exchanges between the United States and Mexico at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate levels, especially with communities and through academic institutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academic institutions and businesses to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(3) promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the region in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in proximity to such region; and

(4) assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships between universities in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have comparable accreditation standards as medical school and nursing programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education, in addition to the Accreditation Commission For Education in Nursing, so that medical students can pass medical licensing board

exams, and nursing students can pass nursing licensing exams, in the United States.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on the strategy required under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE.—The term “100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative” means the initiative established in March 2011 by the United States Government to increase educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

(2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER REGION.—The term “covered United States-Mexico border region” means those portions of the United States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between those countries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 133, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure. I thank Representative CUELLAR for introducing this measure, and I will discuss its merits in a moment.

But I can't stand in good conscience on the House floor to talk about our economic partnership with Mexico and not speak for a moment on what is happening right now on our southern border.

The government is currently shut down, with thousands of workers furloughed and prevented from doing their jobs. This is something that should be ameliorated quickly. Government should open.

The measure before us today deals with the incredibly important relationship with our neighbor to the south, Mexico. Mexico is our close friend and ally and a country with which we have extraordinarily close cultural and person-to-person ties.

This bill builds on the Obama administration's 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative by requiring the Secretary of State to expand the exchange programs and allow our students and business leaders to share and learn from each other.

It is also crucial that we send a strong message to the Mexican people that the United States Congress will not walk away from them despite the damage done to the relationship.

As I have said many times in the House Foreign Affairs Committee and on the House floor, the United States should be in the business of building

bridges, not walls, to our friends in Mexico.

By passing this measure today, the House of Representatives is recommitting itself to our bilateral relationship. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the U.S.-Mexico Economic Partnership Act authored by my good friend and fellow Texan, Mr. CUELLAR.

As a native Texan, I know how critical the U.S.-Mexico relationship is to the prosperity and security of our two nations. And as the former chairman of the U.S.-Mexico IPG, I had the honor of leading congressional delegations to sit down with our Mexican counterparts to discuss bilateral issues, such as trade and security, and just recently went down for the President's inauguration. These legislative exchanges have been imperative for furthering the relationship between our two nations.

However, we must look beyond traditional and shared connections and foster cultural and academic partnerships and grow the U.S.-Mexico relationship among the younger generations. This bill achieves that goal by creating academic exchanges in the private sector that are focused on health and energy. This academic pipeline will strengthen our energy infrastructure and develop new generations of medical professionals who could work in both of our countries.

This bill complements the economic growth initiatives and the recently negotiated USMCA trade agreement, and it promotes the U.S.-Mexico relationship at the committee level.

Again, as I mentioned just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending the inauguration of President Lopez Obrador in Mexico City with many of my colleagues. Our two countries have had a very proud history together, and I think these are times, trying times, as the chairman mentioned, but I think that is why this bill is so important. I think we can have a brighter future together between our two nations. I urge my colleagues to support it to strengthen this relationship.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Mr. CUELLAR for leading this message. Growing up in Texas, I dealt with our Mexican counterpart, their largest trading partner, have done a lot with Mexico. When I was in the Attorney General's Office, I met with Mexico periodically, and also as a Member of Congress.

This is an important relationship between our countries. While there have been moments of disagreement, I think it is important that our countries remain allies and we are friends with our neighbors to the south.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to close by again emphasizing the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

Twenty years ago, it would have been hard to imagine coming to the House floor in support of a bipartisan bill on educational exchanges with Mexico. Now, a bill like this will glide through the House with little, if any, opposition, just as it did last year. But we cannot take cooperation for granted. We have to keep on working with Mexico to improve our relationship.

I thank my colleagues for supporting me and joining me in supporting this legislation to double down on the successes in the U.S.-Mexico partnership, and I urge its immediate passage.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 133, the “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” that promotes economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

The “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” strategy predominantly focuses on academic, business and medical exchanges.

The United States and Mexico have benefited from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

In March 2011, the United States launched the “100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative”, which increased educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region.

The 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.

The “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” would expand the educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas, the Houston Independent School District is educating nearly 3,500 immigrant students in their first year in American school systems.

The state’s largest district of Texas has more than 11,000 immigrant students who have been in America for three years or less.

René Sánchez, the principal of César E. Chávez High School located in the 18th district and the son of Mexican immigrants made statements to incoming high schoolers.

“Many of you were not in Houston last year, were not in the United States, yet we’re holding you to the same standards as students . . . living in the United States all their lives,” said René Sánchez.

High school students like Sophia Martinez, an 18-year-old senior from Mexico have been in Houston for nearly two years and speak near-fluently but stumble over the essay section.

For these students and reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 133.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 133.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 192) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 192

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 “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, launched in 2005, is an interagency program to assist partner countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address terrorist threats and prevent the spread of violent extremism;

(2) armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of radical Islamist extremism and build partner countries’ capacity to combat these threats in Africa;

(4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance; and

(5) to address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions of Africa, a coordinated, interagency approach is needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.

(a) TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership, to be known as the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership” (TSCTP), to coordinate all United States programs, projects, and activities in North and West Africa that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build the capacity of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

(B) To improve the ability of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to cooperate with the United States and other partner countries on counterterrorism efforts.

(C) To enhance the border security capacity of partner countries in such regions, including the ability to monitor, restrain, and interdict terrorists.

(D) To strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including access to justice, and the ability of the law enforcement entities of

such partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to, investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

(E) To monitor and counter the financing of terrorism.

(F) To further reduce any vulnerabilities among affected populations in such regions to recruitment or incitement of terrorist activities through public diplomacy efforts, such as supporting youth employment, promoting meaningful participation of women, strengthening local governance and civil society capacity, and improving access to economic opportunities and education.

(G) To support independent, local-language media, particularly in rural areas, to counter media operations and recruitment propaganda by terrorist organizations.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In coordinating programs through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State shall also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media (formerly known as the Broadcasting Board of Governors), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a notification, in accordance with the requirements of section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1), that includes the following:

(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1).

(B) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(C) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country or entity to absorb the assistance to be provided.

(D) The estimated cost and anticipated implementation timeline for assistance.

(E) As applicable, a description of the arrangements to sustain any equipment provided by the activity beyond the completion date of such activity, if applicable, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(F) The amount, type, statutory authorization, and purpose of any United States security assistance provided to such foreign country during the three preceding fiscal years pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip” authorities of the Department of Defense.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, interagency strategy that—

(A) states the objectives of the United States counterterrorism effort in North and West Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to counter violent extremism;

(B) includes a plan by the Secretary of State for the manner in which programs shall be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including which agency or bureau of the Department of State, as applicable, will be responsible for leading and coordinating each such program; and

(C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate TSCTP programs and identifies the key indicators that will be used to measure performance and progress under the strategy.