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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 15, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF ELEANOR PATTERSON BARBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a great public servant, a mother, a wife, a friend to many, and the longest serving employee of the Washington County North Carolina School System, Mrs. Eleanor Patterson Barber. Some refer to her as "Mother Barber."

Mrs. Barber, Mr. Speaker, the daughter of Charles Edgar Patterson, a West Virginia Pentecostal preacher, and Lucille Patterson, a Georgia native from the Southlands, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 13, 1933.

A graduate of the historic Crispus Attucks High School, Mrs. Barber trained as a concert pianist and graduated from Lain Business College in Indianapolis. She served in the Civil Air Patrol, where she met her husband, the Reverend William J. Barber I, a minister, educator, and activist with deep roots in eastern North Carolina.

With a strong passion and conviction for justice and equality, the Barber couple, in 1966, relocated to eastern North Carolina to play an essential role in the integration of the county schools. Though it had been 12 years since the Brown decision, many Southern schools remained fully separated by race.

While the decision to move southward from a northern metropolitan city meant that their only son at the time, William J. Barber, II, would enter kindergarten at a segregated school, they believed that this sacrifice would, nonetheless, serve the greater good for their family, Washington County, and the State.

Her little boy, William, some refer to him as Billy, is now internationally known as Bishop William J. Barber, II, who was the architect of the Moral Monday movement and is now the founder and leader of Repairers of the Breach, or the Poor People's National Campaign.

In 1966, Mother Barber began working as the office manager at the Washington County Union Elementary School, while her husband taught science at the school. In 1971, when Mrs. Barber began her duties at Plymouth High School, she made history as the first African American office manager at a desegregated school in that county.

Mrs. Barber's passion and conviction have led her to impact generations of students over her 53 years of service. She has served 11 principals, and in some cases, she has watched students and their parents and grandparents matriculate through the school. She also helped teach countless young people how to play the concert piano, often when they didn't have the resources to afford the lessons. She has led choirs and served as the baccalaureate musician for the high school for many, many years, and she continues.

In her more than half a century of service to North Carolina's public schools, I, today, applaud Mrs. Barber for her years of dedicated and committed service to our Nation's most precious resources: our children.

Mrs. Eleanor Barber is a history maker, barrier breaker, and a remarkable example of the transformative power of a willing spirit and a dedicated public servant.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District, including the people of Washington County and the town of Roper, where she resides, I express appreciation to Mrs. Eleanor Patterson Barber for 53 years of committed service to the Washington County, North Carolina, public schools.

Thank you to Mrs. Barber for your perseverance and your willingness to give and to go the extra mile to pour into the youth all that you had to offer.

Mrs. Barber, without exception, earned the right to be honored here today on the floor of the House of Representatives. It is my hope that God will continue to bless and keep Mrs. Barber and her family for years to come.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that Mrs. Barber has a wonderful family. She gave birth to two biological children. They were both boys. The first was Bishop William J. Barber, II.

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Bishop Barber is married to Rebecca Barber, and they have five children: Sharralle; William, III; Benjamin Joseph; Rebecca Eleanor; and Andrew Willard—five wonderful, delightful children.

The other sibling deceased earlier this year. He lived in Grifton, Georgia. His name was Charles Edgar Barber, and he was survived by three children: Shakile, Malik, and Quentin.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate you allowing me time this morning to celebrate and to recognize a great American who has served well over these many years.

SUPPORT FOR OUR SERVICEMEMBERS IN THE NDAA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, last week, we passed a National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020. Working with my colleagues for over 20 hours on the House Armed Services Committee to mark up this bill in the late hours of the night and the early hours of the next day was all worth it.

Mr. Speaker, with the passage of this year's NDAA, we have fulfilled our duties to ensure our military's readiness, strengthened our national security, and eased our servicemembers' transition to civilian life.

I am proud to have helped secure 17 floor amendments for the NDAA, with more than half of those offered on a bipartisan basis. These provisions supported programs that are critical to servicemembers living in the 39th Congressional District.

A major priority of mine is ensuring that our servicemembers have the support they need when they transition back to civilian life. I was proud to colead the bipartisan Work for Warriors provision with my colleagues, Representatives PAUL COOK, ELISSA SLOTKIN, and MARK TAKANO.

The Work for Warriors model has a proven track record of helping our veterans find jobs, providing job placement assistance to unemployed Guardsmen, Reservists, military spouses, and veterans to not only help them provide for their families, but also facilitate their successful transition back to civilian life.

Another priority of mine was to improve the quality of healthcare for servicemembers, especially mental health programs and women's healthcare services. I am proud to have secured a number of provisions that take care of military families by expanding military housing and improving access to healthcare services.

Specifically, I was proud to work with Congresswoman CHRISSY HOULAHAN to expand transition assistance for women servicemembers. This will ensure our servicewomen are better equipped with the healthcare resources they need as they leave military service.

Also, I am hopeful that the amendment my colleagues and I included to address sexual assault at all levels of our military will help our servicemembers and veterans receive the respect and justice they deserve. The high rate of sexual assault in the military is unacceptable and needs to be addressed immediately.

Even though DOD spends millions on sexual assault prevention programs, the number of assaults has jumped dramatically since 2010. We owe it to our servicemembers and veterans to determine why the current programs have been failing, and we need to create a new, effective approach to this problem.

Because, in exchange for their service, our Nation took on the responsibility to care for each servicemember's health, both physical and mental, that is why I prioritized provisions to address the suicide epidemic currently facing our servicemembers and veterans. We are losing servicemembers and veterans to addiction and suicide at alarming rates. It is unacceptable that this epidemic is only getting worse.

I worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to secure language that will help prevent servicemembers from reaching at-risk status and ensure that at-risk servicemembers are identified and able to receive the care they deserve.

Also, I am proud to have supported an amendment with Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER to protect our transgender servicemembers. As a Navy veteran, I was saddened by our government's willingness to discriminate against individuals who had the courage, spirit, and commitment to serve our country in uniform.

Anyone who has the bravery to serve our country should be allowed to do so, and I stand firmly against the administration's ban on transgender servicemembers. I will continue to fight against this hateful and bigoted policy until the President and his administration understand that transgender servicemembers have the right to their dignity, and they have the right to serve.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the NDAA reaffirms our constitutional authority over the use of military force. With this provision, Congress reasserts our congressional authority and its duty to our country and our servicemembers, and it makes clear to the President that there is no current authorization to use military force against Iran. We understand how Iran destabilizes the region, and it is our responsibility in Congress to ensure that the U.S. does not enter into a conflict without a strategy.

In closing, while I have said much on what this House has accomplished with this bill, I would like to end with this: I thank our servicemembers, civilian military personnel, and all the national security professionals who support our Armed Services in my district, in our country, and around the world.

It is an honor to represent them in Congress to ensure the promises made here are kept for our servicemembers and our veterans.

PASS OUR 2020 NDAA BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020, a measure which sets policy for the folks who wear the uniform of this country.

The U.S. Congress has actually passed a defense authorization act every year for the last 57 years. This year, if we all continue to work together, we can make it 58 years running.

Again, this is a measure which sets everything from military pay—a 3.1 percent pay raise for the military, the largest pay increase in the last 10 years—to setting the ground rules for military acquisition, whether it is recapitalizing our Navy or buying the new F-35 planes for the Air Force. It is a large, sprawling bill which covers, again, all aspects of U.S. defense policy for the upcoming year.

Included in this measure was an amendment that I offered for which, on Friday evening, the Iraq and Afghan Veterans of America issued a strong statement of support in the wake of passage of the bill.

What my amendment did is it offset a policy decision that was made in July of 2018 by the Trump administration which cut off the ability of long-serving members of the military to transfer their GI Bill educational benefits to a spouse or dependent. Again, the IAVA, which TIME Magazine has described as the most important organization representing a new generation of veterans—what my amendment did was it eliminated what IAVA described as a shortsighted policy change announced by the Department of Defense in July 2015, which would have limited transferability to servicemembers with less than 16 years of Active-Duty service and excluded servicemembers who had served for nearly the entirety of the war on terror.

In 2008, we changed the GI bill, recognizing, again, that we have an all-volunteer force and that the GI Bill, which goes back to Franklin Roosevelt signing it 75 years ago, had deteriorated over time. We restored the value of the educational benefit, and we created, for the first time, the ability of a servicemember to transfer, on a one-time basis only, the educational benefit to a spouse or child.

Again, what this did was it took the burden of those who were serving particularly long periods of time in our military at great economic sacrifices the ability to at least take one family member's educational benefits for higher education.

Again, my amendment, which was part of the bill that passed last Friday night, would restore the full intent of the Congress in 2008 and reverse the Trump administration's decision to cut off that transferability, which was issued last July.

Again, we still have work to do. We have a conference to build with the Senate, and we, obviously, have to get it to the President for signature. We have done it for 57 straight years, and we should make it 58 this year by passing the 2020 NDAA bill.

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, there are also things happening over at the U.S. Department of Education regarding higher education which are of great concern.

On Thursday, the American Federation of Teachers filed a lawsuit in the District Court of Washington, D.C., basically asking the court to rule that the Department's foot-dragging in terms of discharging student loan debt through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program has got to come to an end.

In 2007, we passed the College Class Reduction Act which set up a mechanism for those who serve in critical public service occupations, such as teaching, nurses, doctors, police, prosecutors, social workers, veterinarians, and people who work in nonprofit organizations. If they make their student loan payments consistently over a 10-year period, under the College Class Reduction Act, they could apply for a discharge of the balance of their student loan, recognizing that these are people who are going into occupations for which the payment of student loan debt can be too onerous.

□ 1215

So, 2007 was the year that this program was supposed to kick into effect. As the Government Accountability Office determined, since that period—and these are our figures from 2019—7,555 borrowers have submitted applications to have their loans discharged. Only 864 have been approved, and only 516 borrowers, less than 1 percent, have had their loans forgiven.

Again, the loan servicers working for the Department of Education, as determined by GAO, are giving bad information and are not crediting the monthly loan payments that teachers and nurses and others have been faithfully making, relying on this program. They built their employment history around the opportunity, knowing that that student loan debt could be discharged.

Again, what we are seeing are shocking figures from the Department of Education that have not followed through and implemented this law.

Not a great surprise to those of us on the Committee on Education and Labor because the Trump administration, for the last 3 years, has submitted budgets that would eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

We have to change this administration's policies toward higher education.

We did it on Friday, and we have to do it with public service loan forgiveness to reward the good guys, the people who are out there doing critical work for our Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Armenian Apostolic Church of America, New York, New York, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, Your children gathered here, in this sanctuary of democracy and freedom, thank Thee for Your providential care full of visible and invisible blessings.

Lead this august assembly in Your spirit to accomplish the mission vested upon her.

Grant Your wisdom and love upon the Members of this assembly to follow Thy will and fulfill their awesome responsibility toward the "land of the free" and the world at large.

May justice and peace be forthcoming from their decisions, as well as prosperity and joy to prevail among mankind.

Let this and every day be marked as a masterpiece in the lives of all those who serve the people for Your glory, so that they may be worthy of hearing Your calling: "Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BRINDISI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IN CELEBRATION OF 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLGATE UNIVERSITY

(Mr. BRINDISI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join our community in celebrating the 200th anniversary of Colgate University's founding. Located in Madison County in upstate New York, Colgate was officially established by New York State in 1819.

For 200 years, the university has exemplified all the best American higher education has to offer. It has produced many graduates of national acclaim, including business professionals, community leaders, Members of Congress—including two current Members of Congress—and other government officials.

Colgate has taught some of the brightest minds in our country and now educates more than 2,900 students each year in 56 different majors. I am proud to represent this excellent institution in Congress, and I join the Colgate community in celebrating their bicentennial.

LET'S END THE WIDOW'S TAX

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last week, House Democrats had the chance to bring the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act on the floor to repeal the widow's tax.

Roll Call described, today, the bill as a "broadly supported bipartisan bill" with 365 cosponsors. This was the first legislation to achieve the Consensus Calendar and would have received a standalone vote, having 86 percent cosponsorship.

Roll Call said: "Wilson's bill, the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, would end a disparity between government payments made to surviving spouses of servicemembers who die on Active Duty.

"The 'widow's tax' . . . requires the surviving spouses to forfeit much of their DOD Survivor Benefit Plan annuity when they receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA.

"The Rules Committee did not give Wilson a heads-up that they were going to put language in the NDAA rules to remove his bill from the Consensus Calendar."

This was a partisan political gimmick. It is not too late to bring it back up as a standalone bill to help the spouses.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1447

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN) at 2 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

UNITED STATES-NORTHERN TRIANGLE ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2615) to support the people of Central America and strengthen United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2615

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Report on drivers of migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.
- Sec. 3. Actions to promote inclusive economic growth and development in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 4. Actions to combat corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 5. Actions to strengthen democratic institutions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 6. Actions to improve security conditions in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations for assistance to Central America.
- Sec. 8. Conditions on assistance to the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 9. Enhancing engagement with the Government of Mexico on the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 10. Targeting assistance to address migration from communities in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 11. Targeted sanctions to fight corruption in the Northern Triangle.
- Sec. 12. Requirement to provide advance notification to Congress of security assistance to Northern Triangle countries.

Sec. 13. Definitions.

Sec. 14. Determination of budgetary effects.

SEC. 2. REPORT ON DRIVERS OF MIGRATION FROM THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE TO THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the drivers of migration from each of the Northern Triangle countries and the progress United States foreign assistance is making in addressing such drivers.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements for each of the Northern Triangle countries, with data disaggregated by municipality, age, and gender, as necessary:

(1) Information and data on all criminal activities, including drug trafficking, extortion, trafficking in persons, and gender-based violence, with particular emphasis on such activities carried out by criminal gangs and transnational criminal organizations such as MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang.

(2) Data on the extent to which criminal activities referred to in paragraph (1) are reported to government authorities and the number of perpetrators investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted, versus the number of known perpetrators who are not so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted.

(3) Data on children and young adults forcibly recruited for criminal activities referred to in paragraph (1), including the extent to which government authorities received reports of forced recruitment.

(4) Data on internal displacement due to criminal activities referred to in paragraph (1), and services, including temporary shelters, provided to those displaced by violence.

(5) Data on gender-based violence by region and municipality and descriptions of gender-based violence and domestic violence trends, including gender-based violence against indigenous women, and correlation to outward migration.

(6) Descriptions of the obstacles (including capacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to resolving gender-based violence cases and deterring violence against women and children.

(7) Information on the availability of trauma-informed legal and social services, including in shelters, for victims of gender-based violence.

(8) Data on the number of police officers, prosecutors, court personnel, and specialized units trained in violence against women and children, including data on the number of female police officers in each of the Northern Triangle countries.

(9) Data on reported cases of abuse, including extrajudicial executions, torture, forced disappearance, and arbitrary detention, allegedly committed by members of the security forces, and collusion between members of such security forces and gangs and other criminal groups, including transnational criminal organizations, and the number of perpetrators investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted, versus the number of known perpetrators not so investigated, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted.

(10) Descriptions of the strategies being implemented to guarantee the rights of indigenous and rural communities.

(11) Descriptions of the strategies being implemented to address forced recruitment of children and youth by gangs, transnational criminal organizations, and other criminal groups, and how such strate-

gies are complemented by United States efforts.

(12) Descriptions of the strategies being implemented by the governments of each of the Northern Triangle countries to address corruption and organized crime and how such strategies are complemented by United States efforts.

(13) Data on the effectiveness of anti-corruption strategies, including through bilateral and multilateral anti-corruption assistance.

(14) An assessment of the extent of corruption, including regarding narcotics trafficking and illicit campaign financing, a description of steps taken and to be taken to impose sanctions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note), and a list of senior officials who are known or credibly alleged to have committed or facilitated such corruption, not including individuals who have already been sentenced to crimes in criminal courts.

(15) Descriptions of operating conditions for civil society organizations and independent media in each of the Northern Triangle countries, and data on harassment and attacks on civil society and independent media from political and criminal actors.

(16) An assessment of information sharing regarding known or suspected terrorists and other individuals and groups that pose a potential threat to United States national security that are crossing through or residing in the Northern Triangle.

(17) Descriptions of the obstacles (including capacity gaps within the criminal justice systems) to resolving criminal cases and corruption and deterring violence.

(18) Data on the capacity of child welfare systems in each Northern Triangle country to protect unaccompanied children, including runaways and refugee returnees.

(19) Data on the governance capacity of Northern Triangle country governments at the local and national level, including ability to deliver basic citizen services, including tax collection and citizen security.

(20) Data on the rates of extortion, the impact of extortion on local businesses and economies, and the number of extortion cases investigated, prosecuted, or convicted.

(21) Data on the extent to which the Northern Triangle governments are promoting economic growth and educational opportunities, improving health outcomes, and addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality through public policies.

(22) Data on the activities of China and Russia, an assessment of the threat of such activities to United States interests, and the impact of such activities on irregular migration.

(23) An analysis of the manner and extent to which assistance made available to the Northern Triangle countries in fiscal years 2015 through 2017 were expended, particularly including—

(A) the extent to which funds made available to private and nongovernmental entities to provide such assistance were subsequently expended on activities conducted within such countries; and

(B) the manner in which such funds were expended on activities in other countries.

(24) Data on the geographic regions where highest incidence of violence occurs against women and children.

(25) An evaluation of the extent to which women and children who are victims of violence have access to protection and justice.

(26) An evaluation of the capacity of the justice system in each Northern Triangle country to respond to reports of femicide, sexual assault, domestic violence, trafficking, or child abuse and neglect, and to

hold perpetrators of such crimes accountable.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

SEC. 3. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

(a) **SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.**—The Secretary of State shall prioritize economic development in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the following initiatives:

(1) Supporting market-based solutions to eliminate constraints to inclusive economic growth, including through support for increased digital connectivity and the use of financial technology, and private sector and civil society-led efforts to create jobs and foster economic prosperity.

(2) Addressing underlying causes of poverty and inequality, including by improving nutrition and food security, providing health resources and access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and shelter, and improving livelihoods.

(3) Responding to immediate humanitarian needs by increasing humanitarian assistance, including through access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene, and shelter, improving livelihoods, and by providing health resources and improving nutrition and food security.

(4) Supporting conservation and community resilience and strengthening community preparedness for natural disasters and other external shocks.

(5) Identifying, as appropriate, a role for the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the United States Agency for International Development, and the United States private sector in supporting efforts to increase private sector investment and strengthen economic prosperity.

(6) Expanding comprehensive reintegration mechanisms for repatriated individuals once returned to their countries of origin and supporting efforts by the private sector to hire and train eligible returnees.

(7) Establishing monitoring and verification services to determine the well-being of repatriated children in order to determine if United States protection and screening functioned effectively in identifying persecuted and trafficked children.

(8) Supporting efforts to increase domestic resource mobilization, including through strengthening of tax collection and enforcement and legal arbitration mechanisms.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—

(1) **ELEMENTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, the Director of the United States Trade and Development Agency, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a five-year strategy to support inclusive economic growth and development in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the initiatives described in subsection (a).

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with non-governmental organizations in the Northern Triangle countries and the United States.

(3) **BENCHMARKS.**—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include annual benchmarks to track the strategy's progress

in curbing irregular migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.

(4) **PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include a public diplomacy strategy for educating citizens of the Northern Triangle countries about United States assistance and its benefits to them, and informing such citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the United States.

(5) **ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.**—Not later than one year after the submission of the strategy required under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter for four years, the Secretary of State shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a written description of progress made in meeting the benchmarks established in the strategy.

(6) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

(c) **REPORT ON ESTABLISHING AN INVESTMENT FUND FOR THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES AND SOUTHERN MEXICO.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report assessing the feasibility, costs, and benefits of the Corporation establishing an investment fund to promote economic and social development in the Northern Triangle countries and southern Mexico.

SEC. 4. ACTIONS TO COMBAT CORRUPTION IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

(a) **SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.**—The Secretary of State shall prioritize efforts to combat corruption in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the following initiatives:

(1) Supporting anti-corruption efforts, including by strengthening national justice systems and attorneys general, providing technical assistance to financial institutions to identify money laundering and other financial crimes, breaking up financial holdings of organized criminal syndicates, including illegally acquired lands and proceeds from illegal activities, and supporting independent media and investigative reporting.

(2) Supporting anti-corruption efforts through bilateral assistance and complementary support through multilateral anti-corruption mechanisms when necessary.

(3) Encouraging cooperation agreements between the Department of State and relevant United States Government agencies and attorneys general to fight corruption.

(4) Supporting efforts to strengthen special prosecutorial offices and financial institutions to combat corruption, money laundering, financial crimes, extortion, human rights crimes, asset forfeiture, and criminal analysis.

(5) Supporting initiatives to advance judicial integrity and improve security for members of the judicial sector.

(6) Supporting transparent, merit-based selection processes for prosecutors and judges and the development of professional and merit-based civil services.

(7) Supporting the establishment or strengthening of methods, procedures, and expectations for internal and external control mechanisms for the security and police services and judiciary.

(8) Supporting the adoption of appropriate technologies to combat corruption in public finance.

(b) **STRATEGY.**—

(1) **ELEMENTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies,

shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a five-year strategy to combat corruption in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the initiatives described in subsection (a).

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with non-governmental organizations in the Northern Triangle countries and the United States.

(3) **BENCHMARKS.**—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include annual benchmarks to track the strategy's progress in curbing irregular migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.

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(5) **ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.**—Not later than one year after the submission of the strategy required under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter for four years, the Secretary of State shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a written description of progress made in meeting the benchmarks established in the strategy.

(6) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

(c) **DESIGNATION OF A SENIOR RULE OF LAW ADVISOR FOR THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE IN THE BUREAU OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS.**—The Secretary of State shall designate in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs of the Department of State a Senior Rule of Law Advisor for the Northern Triangle who shall lead diplomatic engagement with the Northern Triangle countries in support of democratic governance, anti-corruption efforts, and the rule of law in all aspects of United States policy towards the countries of the Northern Triangle, including carrying out the initiatives described in subsection (a) and developing the strategy required under subsection (b). The individual designated in accordance with this subsection shall be a Department of State employee in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

(a) **SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.**—The Secretary of State shall prioritize strengthening democratic institutions, good governance, human rights, and the rule of law in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the following initiatives:

(1) Providing support to strengthen government institutions and actors at the local and national levels to provide services and respond to citizen needs through transparent, inclusive, and democratic processes.

(2) Supporting efforts to strengthen access to information laws and reform laws that currently limit access to information.

(3) Financing efforts to build the capacity of independent media with a specific focus on professional investigative journalism.

(4) Ensuring that threats and attacks on journalists and human rights defenders are fully investigated and perpetrators are held accountable.

(5) Developing the capacity of civil society to conduct oversight and accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels.

(6) Training political actors committed to democratic principles.

(7) Strengthening electoral institutions and processes to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

(8) Advancing conservation principles and the rule of law to address multiple factors,

including the impacts of illegal cattle ranching and smuggling as drivers of deforestation.

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to support democratic governance in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the initiatives described in subsection (a).

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with non-governmental organizations in the Northern Triangle countries and the United States.

(3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include annual benchmarks to track the strategy's progress in curbing irregular migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.

(4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include a public diplomacy strategy for educating citizens of the Northern Triangle countries about United States assistance and its benefits to them, and informing such citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the United States.

(5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later than one year after the submission of the strategy required under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter for four years, the Secretary of State shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a written description of progress made in meeting the benchmarks established in the strategy.

(6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

SEC. 6. ACTIONS TO IMPROVE SECURITY CONDITIONS IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

(a) SECRETARY OF STATE PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize security in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the following initiatives:

(1) Implementing the Central America Regional Security Initiative of the Department of State.

(2) Continuing the vetting and professionalization of security services, including the civilian police and military units.

(3) Supporting efforts to combat the illicit activities of criminal gangs and transnational criminal organizations, including MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang, through support to fully vetted elements of attorneys general offices, appropriate government institutions, and security services.

(4) Supporting training for fully vetted civilian police and appropriate security services in criminal investigations, best practices for citizen security, and human rights.

(5) Providing capacity-building to relevant security services and attorneys general to support counternarcotics efforts and combat human trafficking, forcible recruitment of children and youth by gangs, gender-based violence, and other illicit activities, including trafficking of wildlife, and natural resources.

(6) Encouraging collaboration with regional and international partners in implementing security assistance, including by supporting cross-border information sharing on gangs and transnational criminal organizations.

(7) Providing equipment, technology, tools, and training to security services to assist in border and port inspections.

(8) Providing equipment, technology, tools, and training to assist security services in counternarcotics and other efforts to combat illicit activities.

(9) Continuing information sharing regarding known or suspected terrorists and other individuals and entities that pose a potential threat to United States national security that are crossing through or residing in the Northern Triangle.

(10) Supporting information sharing on gangs and transnational criminal organizations between relevant Federal, State, and local law enforcement and the governments of the Northern Triangle countries.

(11) Considering the use of assets and resources of United States State and local government entities, as appropriate, to support the activities described in this subsection.

(12) Providing thorough end-use monitoring of equipment, technology, tools, and training provided pursuant to this subsection.

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a five-year strategy to prioritize the improvement of security in the Northern Triangle countries by carrying out the initiatives described in subsection (a).

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with non-governmental organizations in the Northern Triangle countries and the United States.

(3) BENCHMARKS.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include annual benchmarks to track the strategy's progress in curbing irregular migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States.

(4) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include a public diplomacy strategy for educating citizens of the Northern Triangle countries about United States assistance and its benefits to them, and informing such citizens of the dangers of illegal migration to the United States.

(5) ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATES.—Not later than one year after the submission of the strategy required under paragraph (1) and annually thereafter for four years, the Secretary of State shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a written description of progress made in meeting the benchmarks established in the strategy.

(6) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

(c) WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION COMPACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of other relevant Federal departments or agencies, is authorized to enter into bilateral agreements with one or more of the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to provide United States assistance for the purposes of—

(A) strengthening the capacity of the justice systems in such countries to protect women and children fleeing domestic, gang, or drug violence and to serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, or child abuse or neglect, including by strengthening the capacity of such systems to hold perpetrators accountable; and

(B) creating, securing, and sustaining safe communities and schools in such countries, by building on current approaches to prevent

and deter violence against women and children in such communities or schools.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—An agreement under the authority provided by paragraph (1)—

(A) shall establish a 3- to 6-year plan to achieve the objectives described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such paragraph;

(B) shall include measurable goals and indicators with respect to such objectives;

(C) may not provide for any United States assistance to be made available directly to any of the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras; and

(D) may be suspended or terminated with respect to a country or an entity receiving assistance pursuant to the agreement, if the Secretary of State determines that such country or entity has failed to make sufficient progress towards the goals of the Compact.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President \$577,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to carry out the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America in accordance with subsection (b). Funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section shall be used only for the purposes set forth in subsection (b).

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available for assistance to Central American countries to implement the United States Strategy for Engagement in Central America, including efforts to carry out sections 3, 4, 5, and 6.

(2) EFFECTIVE TARGETING OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, assistance provided to Central American countries to carry out this Act is obligated and expended on projects, programs, or activities within such countries, in order to better support inclusive economic growth and development, combat corruption, strengthen democratic institutions, and improve security conditions in such countries.

(c) INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION.—Not less than \$10,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available to the Inter-American Foundation to address the root causes of migration from Central America.

(d) NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—Not less than \$490,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available for programming in the Northern Triangle countries.

(e) WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION COMPACTS.—Not less than \$20,000,000 of the funds authorized to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be made available to provide assistance pursuant to agreements authorized by section 6(c).

SEC. 8. CONDITIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the President by this Act that are made available for assistance for each of the central governments of the Northern Triangle countries, 50 percent of such funds for each such central government may only be obligated with respect to each such country after the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that such central government is meeting the following conditions:

(1) Informing its citizens of the dangers of the journey to the southwest border of the United States.

(2) Combating all human smuggling and trafficking entities.

(3) Countering the trafficking of illicit drugs, firearms, wildlife, natural resources, and other contraband.

(4) Combating corruption, including investigating and prosecuting current and former government officials credibly alleged to be corrupt.

(5) Implementing reforms, policies, and programs to increase transparency and strengthen public institutions and the rule of law.

(6) Countering the activities of criminal gangs, drug traffickers, and transnational criminal organizations.

(7) Ensuring that human rights are respected by national security forces.

(8) Investigating and prosecuting in the civilian justice system government personnel who are credibly alleged to have violated human rights.

(9) Cooperating with commissions against corruption and impunity and with regional human rights entities.

(10) Supporting programs to reduce poverty, expand education and vocational training for at-risk youth, create jobs, and promote equitable economic growth, particularly in areas contributing to large numbers of migrants.

(11) Creating a professional, accountable civilian police force and ending the role of the military in internal policing.

(12) Protecting the right of political opposition parties and other members of civil society to operate without interference.

(13) Implementing tax reforms, ensuring property rights, and supporting increased private investment in the region.

(14) Resolving commercial disputes.

(b) REPROGRAMMING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds withheld pursuant to the limitation described in subsection (a) shall be made available for programs in the Northern Triangle that do not directly support the central governments of such countries.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The limitation described in subsection (a) does not apply to funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for humanitarian assistance or global food security programs.

SEC. 9. ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO ON THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

(a) ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO ON THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.—The Secretary of State shall collaborate with the Government of Mexico to—

(1) enhance development, particularly in collaboration with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Inter-American Foundation, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, in southern Mexico; and

(2) strengthen security cooperation at Mexico's shared border with Guatemala and Belize.

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) ELEMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to carry out the collaboration described in subsection (a).

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with nongovernmental organizations in Mexico, Belize, the Northern Triangle countries, and the United States.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of State.

SEC. 10. TARGETING ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS MIGRATION FROM COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for each of the three succeeding years, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the following:

(1) Raw data from Federal agencies on the number of migrants coming to the United States from each community or geographic area in the Northern Triangle countries, with a specific focus on communities targeted by United States foreign assistance.

(2) An assessment of whether United States foreign assistance to the Northern Triangle countries is effectively reaching the communities from which individuals are migrating.

(3) An assessment of the extent to which United States foreign assistance is mitigating Northern Triangle migration to the United States, including a breakdown of effectiveness by project and implementer.

(4) An assessment of the extent to which the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development are adjusting foreign assistance programming in the Northern Triangle countries as migration patterns shift.

(5) An assessment of how the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other implementers of United States foreign assistance in the Northern Triangle are measuring the impact of programs on migration trends.

(6) An assessment of how the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other implementers of United States foreign assistance in the Northern Triangle are implementing a public diplomacy strategy that is widely informing local citizens about United States Government assistance and the dangers of illegal migration to the United States, including an assessment of the effectiveness of such strategy on curbing such illegal migration.

(7) An assessment of the extent to which the governments of the Northern Triangle countries are addressing drivers of migration, including efforts to increase economic prosperity, citizen security, anti-corruption efforts, democratic principles, and rule of law.

(8) An assessment of how the Northern Triangle countries are educating their citizens about the dangers of illegal migration to the United States and the effectiveness of such educational efforts on curbing such illegal migration.

SEC. 11. TARGETED SANCTIONS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) corruption in the Northern Triangle countries by private citizens and select officials in local, regional, and federal governments significantly damages the economies of such countries and deprives citizens of opportunities;

(2) corruption in the Northern Triangle is facilitated and carried out not only by private citizens and select officials from those countries but also in many instances by individuals from third countries; and

(3) imposing targeted sanctions on individuals from throughout the world and particularly in the Western Hemisphere who are engaged in acts of significant corruption that impact the Northern Triangle countries will benefit the citizens and governments of such countries.

(b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign per-

son who the President determines on or after the date of the enactment of this Act to have knowingly engaged in significant corruption in a Northern Triangle country, including the following:

(1) Corruption related to government contracts.

(2) Bribery and extortion.

(3) The facilitation or transfer of the proceeds of corruption, including through money laundering.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) ASSET BLOCKING.—The blocking, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), of all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—In the case of a foreign person who is an individual, such foreign person is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(C) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer or the Secretary of State, (or a designee of the Secretary of State) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to a foreign person regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is issued.

(ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of a measure imposed pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out such paragraph shall be subject to the penalties specified in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under subparagraph (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a foreign person if admitting or paroling such person into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION; REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are necessary to carry out this section.

(e) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of the

sanctions under subsection (c) if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national interest of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of and justification for the waiver.

(f) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to impose sanctions under subsection (b), and any sanctions imposed pursuant to such authority, shall expire on the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) **GOOD.**—The term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(3) **PERSON FROM A NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRY.**—The term “person from a Northern Triangle country” means—

(A) a citizen of a Northern Triangle country; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of a Northern Triangle country or any jurisdiction within a Northern Triangle country.

SEC. 12. REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not provide security assistance to a Northern Triangle country during the 3-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act until 30 days after the date on which the President has provided to the appropriate congressional committees notice of such proposed provision of security assistance.

(b) **WAIVER.**—The President may waive the application of subsection (a) on a case-by-case basis if the President—

(1) determines it is in the national security interests of the United States to do so; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees such determination and the rationale for the determination.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) **SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**—The term “security assistance”—

(A) has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304); and

(B) includes assistance under any international security assistance program conducted under any other provision of law not specified in section 502B(d)(2) of such Act.

SEC. 13. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—Except as otherwise provided, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **NORTHERN TRIANGLE.**—The term “Northern Triangle” means the region of Central America that encompasses the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(3) **NORTHERN TRIANGLE COUNTRIES.**—The term “Northern Triangle countries” means the countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

(4) **TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “transnational criminal organization” has the meaning given the term “significant transnational criminal organization” in Executive Order 13581 (July 24, 2011).

SEC. 14. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2615.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure, and I want to start by thanking Mr. **MCCAUL** for his partnership in authoring this legislation. Through our close, bipartisan collaboration, we have before us today legislation that supports the people of Central America and strengthens our national security by addressing the root causes of child and family migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

I was leading a congressional delegation to El Salvador with Mr. **MCCAUL** in March when the Trump administration decided to cut off foreign assistance in the region, a decision that I view as misguided and counterproductive.

In San Salvador, we saw up close the direct, meaningful impact of our USAID investments. Our delegation visited with an incredible group of young people who were being trained in computer programming and offered a path to a better life.

The United States is helping to provide opportunities for a better future for the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras so children and

families are able to build prosperous lives for themselves, and they aren't forced to make the dangerous journey to our southern border.

But it is not just development assistance we are providing. In San Salvador, we met with FBI agents leading our transnational antigang task force. With State Department funding, the FBI established these task forces in the Northern Triangle over the past decade to counter the growth of MS-13, the 18th Street gang, and other violent criminals.

These units train Salvadorian police officers and work closely with them to dismantle gang leadership structures in the United States and Central America. They make our communities and constituents safer.

So I was pleased to return to Washington and partner with Mr. **MCCAUL** to draft this legislation authorizing our assistance to Central America for fiscal year 2020. The bill also includes strong conditions on any assistance that goes to the central governments of the Northern Triangle countries.

In addition, it lays out a series of actions to be taken by the Secretary of State, the USAID Administrator, and other U.S. Government officials to promote inclusive economic growth and development, combat corruption, strengthen domestic institutions, and improve security conditions in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Lastly, it puts in place targeted visa bans and asset freezes for corrupt individuals from the Northern Triangle countries.

Endemic corruption by government and nongovernment actors in Central America is hurting the region's poor and most vulnerable people, and we should do whatever we can to stop it. Today, the House of Representatives must stand together to pass this commonsense piece of legislation that helps the United States and families and children in the Northern Triangle.

So, I again thank Mr. **MCCAUL** for his partnership and for working with me to address the root causes of migration to the U.S. from Central America. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, June 5, 2019.

Hon. **JERROLD NADLER**,

Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 2615, the United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. I acknowledge that the Committee will not seek a referral of or formally consider H.R. 2615 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in H.R. 2615 which fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 2615, the "United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act," that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to waive sequential referral, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the United States-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act, for which I am proud to be the lead Republican cosponsor, and I want to thank Chairman ENGEL for his bipartisan work on this very important piece of legislation that was really the product of a trip that we took down to Latin America.

This bill requires the State Department and USAID to develop and fund a 5-year strategy to address the drivers of illegal immigration to our southern border. The bill requires State and USAID to develop annual benchmarks to track the progress of programs in stemming migration flows. It requires those to be reported to Congress, increasing our ability to oversee U.S. foreign assistance to the Northern Triangle.

As Chairman ENGEL mentioned, we recently traveled to El Salvador earlier this year and saw the hard work that the U.S. Government is doing to support international law enforcement investigations to capture MS-13 gang members. The bill also prioritizes security assistance to combat transnational crime and to improve security and counternarcotics efforts at their borders and ports.

This legislation also supports the amazing work of faith-based organiza-

tions that are engaged with the private sector to provide employment for youth and prevent them from joining gangs.

This bill builds on existing efforts to increase coordination with Mexico in our shared efforts to curb illegal migration, spur economic development, and combat corruption in the Northern Triangle.

I understand and share the President's frustration with the continued stream of migrants to our southern border, and as a native Texan, I understand the unique challenges caused by illegal migration to our border. Addressing this problem requires a comprehensive solution and utilizing all tools at our disposal, including foreign assistance, which should be used.

I also agree with the President that the governments of the Northern Triangle countries can and must do more to address the drivers of migration. This bill includes conditions that these governments must meet to receive assistance and requires the State Department to engage with these governments to track and ensure they are doing their part to address the crisis.

Lastly, the bill authorizes targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in corruption that impacts the Northern Triangle, and so I urge my colleagues who believe that we must do all we can to address this humanitarian crisis on the border to support this legislation.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, Mr. ENGEL, for his ongoing bipartisan work on this committee. I think we are probably the most bipartisan committee on the Hill, and I know Mr. ENGEL and I are both very proud of that accomplishment.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Mr. McCAUL, and it is a pleasure to work with him on matters like this.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I am proud to support Chairman ENGEL's H.R. 2615, the U.S.-Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit the Northern Triangle and to meet with elected officials, law enforcement officials, and humanitarian organizations to discuss the difficult and dangerous conditions that force families and children to flee their homes in search of a better life. I discovered what we all knew: The root causes of the refugee crisis are, of course, violence and lack of economic opportunity.

During my trip, I was encouraged by the positive impact and effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance and the changes it has made in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. For example, U.S. programs have supported micro, small, and medium enterprises in El Salvador.

During my trip, I also learned of China's interest to build a deepwater port

and to buy coastline in the area. Clearly, it is in America's best strategic long-term interest to make sure that the area is economically stable and that the region is economically and politically stable.

We must continue to invest in regional security and economic development to ensure that our neighbors are safe, strong, stable, and secure. And by ensuring our region is secure, we can build strong and lasting peace and prosperity and build markets for American products and services.

I urge my colleagues to pass this vital legislation.

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

Providing opportunities for the most vulnerable individuals from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras is common sense, and working to address the root causes of child and family migration is a long-term solution that we should all be able to agree on. It is the right thing to do, but it is also in our own interest.

And while U.S. foreign assistance is crucial, it is not a gift. It must come with strong conditions. Our legislation puts in place such conditions for our assistance to the Northern Triangle and includes tough, smart, targeted sanctions to combat corruption.

By passing this bill today, Congress can send, and will send, a loud and clear message that we stand with the people of the Northern Triangle countries to make their countries safer and more prosperous so they aren't forced to make the dangerous trek here. We can also send a message to China and Russia that the U.S. will not abandon our friends and partners in Central America.

Let me conclude by thanking Mr. McCAUL for his partnership on this measure. We truly worked on this together. We were together in Central America when we got the word of the potential cutoff of funding, and we worked closely together in a bipartisan way to make sure that that wouldn't be the case.

So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I thank Mr. McCAUL again, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2615, the "United States-Northern Triangle Enhancement Engagement Act."

H.R. 2615 supports the people of Central America and strengthens United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

H.R. 2615 will provide reports on drivers of migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States and will identify methods for the United States to strengthen fragile democracies in the region.

Thousands of immigrants flee the Northern Triangle to seek asylum and refuge in the United States of America.

The number of asylum seekers worldwide originating from the Northern Triangle reached 110,000 in 2015, a five-fold increase from 2012.

Poverty, corrupt police forces, gang violence, political corruption, and economic instability exacerbate living conditions in the Northern Triangle.

Homicide rates are extremely high for Central American countries; El Salvador is leading the way with a rate of 82.84 per 100,000 persons.

Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans leave their homes in search of physical security, democracy, freedom, and civil liberties.

They look toward the U.S. as a beacon of hope and prosperity, often traveling miles while battling hardships and risks to pursue the American Dream.

This bill seeks to combat corruption among political institutions in the region to reinforce security and lead to the development of civil society.

We must address the origins and the structural causes of migration to address the issues that lead to mass migration to our southern borders.

Our agencies are unequipped and are incapable of meeting the demand of sheltering and processing immigrants who arrive at our ports of entry.

Our nation's security depends on the stability of the Northern Triangle.

We must act to ensure that the countries in this region return to a functioning democracy, free of corruption and violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2615 to assist in reestablishing a democratic and peaceful societies in the countries of the Northern Triangle.

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. 2615, 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.

□ 1500

USAID BRANDING MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2744) to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the manner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2744

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 "USAID Branding Modernization Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION FOR BRANDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is authorized to prescribe, as appropriate, the use of logos or other insignia of the USAID Identity, or the use of additional or substitute markings including the United States flag, to appro-

priately identify, including as required by section 641 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2401), overseas programs administered by the Agency.

(b) AUDIT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to Congress an audit of compliance with relevant branding and marketing requirements of the Agency by implementing partners funded by the USAID, including any requirements prescribed pursuant to the authorization under subsection (a).

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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2744.

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.

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking my friend from Texas once again, the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for his hard work on this measure. I am glad to be a cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, our development efforts around the world accomplish so much.

Whether it is helping build a road that links a small village to a trade hub, working with governments to make their justice systems more transparent and accountable, assisting communities to get clean drinking water, or expanding access to broadband internet in rural areas, American development work is making differences you can see in people's lives. It is also projecting our country's character of compassion and generosity.

So when I travel around the world and I see the USAID logo—it is that recognizable seal of two hands clasped in friendship—on the front door of a new school or a wastewater treatment facility or a pallet of food on its way to refugees, it makes me proud. It really does.

The people benefiting from that assistance should know where it is coming from, too. We should signal to the world our commitment to development is a core pillar of America's global engagement.

This legislation reaffirms the obligation to brand our foreign assistance while continuing to provide needed flexibility to ensure we are not putting our partners or aid recipients at risk. It requires a long overdue audit to ensure that USAID projects are appropriately branded in the field.

This is something Mr. MCCAUL and I have been working on closely together.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter on this issue that Mr. MCCAUL

and I wrote to the USAID administrator, our former House colleague, MARK GREEN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

Mr. MARK GREEN,
Administrator, U.S. Agency for International
Development, Washington, DC.

DEAR ADMINISTRATOR GREEN: We write to you today to reiterate the Congressional intent behind HR 2744, the USAID Branding Modernization Act, which we have introduced in the 116th Congress.

Providing foreign assistance around the world demonstrates the generosity of Americans, and furthers our foreign policy objectives. Branding foreign assistance is always the first preference, to ensure that those receiving assistance know that support comes from the American people. As such, the Congress believes, and has affirmed, that in general, foreign assistance provided using U.S. taxpayer dollars should be branded, as appropriate. This demonstrates U.S. commitment to assisting those in need, be it through food aid after a drought, job training to empower women entrepreneurs, or life-saving vaccines to eradicate polio.

That said, Congress acknowledges the need for discretion and flexibility in branding in some instances to ensure the safety and security of both implementing partners and beneficiaries. This bill in no way amends that understanding, or any authorities, which would impact the ability or need for USAID to provide branding waivers or exemptions as appropriate, with input from and ongoing communication with implementing partners. As referenced in the legislation, 22 USC 2401 asserts that programs "shall be identified appropriately overseas". Federal Register rules and regulations under 2 CFR Part 700 provide waivers to ensure that branding does not put partners or beneficiaries at risk, and USAID internal guidance regarding marking and branding policies remain at the discretion of the Agency.

Finally, this bill requires an audit, conducted by the Inspector General for USAID, on the compliance with relevant branding and marking requirements. This is not intended to re-litigate branding decisions regarding waivers or exemptions that are already in place. Rather, this audit is intended to provide a more comprehensive picture for USAID, its implementing partners, and Congress, of the challenges to successful branding and marking, and how to better communicate, provide guidance, and implement, branding and marking requirements.

We appreciate USAID's ongoing efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises, to advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. We look forward to continuing to work with USAID on effective foreign assistance.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Ranking Member.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am glad we will be moving ahead with this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States Agency for International Development does an incredible job of providing life-saving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people all around the globe.

I want to take this opportunity to commend our former colleague, Administrator Mark Green, for his hard work at USAID. I have had many constructive conversations with him since becoming the lead Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I look forward to many more. This bill is actually his idea.

While the primary goal of such assistance is to save the lives of people in desperate need, we also want to ensure the recipients know that it is a gift from the people of the United States of America.

We hear a lot about the need to maximize America's "soft power." There is no better way to win hearts and minds than by saving lives, feeding hungry children, and helping impoverished populations.

This is why I introduced the Branding Modernization Act, together with Chairman ENGEL.

While this bill places no mandates on USAID and maintains the Administrator's flexibility, it does empower him to brand all of our humanitarian assistance.

It also expands the tools and logos available to the Administrator for implementing a comprehensive branding strategy.

Finally, it requires an audit by the agency's inspector general to ensure that our personnel are complying with branding regulations.

This bill represents smart diplomacy, good governance, and the true compassion of the American people. I believe it deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL again for working with me, as usual, on this bill as well as many others, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank my friend, Ranking Member MCCAUL, for his leadership on this bill.

One of the things that makes American foreign policy unique is that when we are at our best, our values are at the center of everything we do. I think one of the most important American values is that we are a generous and big-hearted country. We invest in development because development and security go hand-in-hand, but also because it is the right thing to do. It allows more people to live fuller, healthier, more prosperous lives.

We should take credit for that. We should let people know it is the United States extending a hand of friendship and assistance. That is the goal that this bill is pursuing.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to support this bill, I encourage all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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. 2744.

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. ENGEL. 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.

CONDEMNING ATTACK ON THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES IN JULY 1994

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 441) a resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994 and expressing the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, 25-year-long delay in the resolution of this case and encouraging accountability for the attack.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 441

Whereas, 25 years ago, on July 18, 1994, 85 innocent people were killed and 300 were wounded when the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA) was bombed in Buenos Aires, Argentina;

Whereas, 2 years earlier, Hezbollah operatives also blew up the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 civilians;

Whereas it is reported that considerable evidence links the attack to the terrorist group Hezbollah, which is based in Lebanon, supported by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, and sponsored by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

Whereas the 25 years since the bombing have been marked by a failure to bring those responsible, including Iranian officials and their Hezbollah proxies, to justice;

Whereas, in September 2004, Alberto Nisman was appointed as the Special Prosecutor in charge of the 1994 AMIA bombing investigation;

Whereas, on October 25, 2006, Argentine prosecutors Alberto Nisman and Marcelo Martínez Burgos formally accused the Government of Iran of directing the bombing, and the Hezbollah militia of carrying it out;

Whereas Ibrahim Hussein Berro, a member of the terrorist group Hezbollah, was identified as the AMIA bomber;

Whereas, in November 2006, an Argentine judge issued arrest warrants for Iranian nationals Ali Fallahijan (former Iranian intelligence minister), Mohsen Rabbani (former Iranian cultural attaché), Ahmad Reza Asghari (former Iranian diplomat), Ahmad Vahidi (former Iranian defense minister), Ali Akbar Velayati (former Iranian foreign minister), Mohsen Rezaee (former chief commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps), Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (former President of Iran), Hadi Soleimannpour (former Iranian Ambassador to Argentina), and Lebanese national Imad Fayeze Moughnieh who were named as suspects in the AMIA bombing;

Whereas, in November 2007, INTERPOL voted to put the following suspects in the 1994 AMIA attack on its most wanted list—Ali Fallahijan, Mohsen Rabbani, Ahmad

Reza Asghari, Ahmad Vahidi, and Mohsen Rezaee from Iran and Imad Fayeze Moughnieh from Lebanon;

Whereas Interpol currently has 4 red alerts in place in relation to the AMIA attack;

Whereas, on January 13, 2015, prosecutor Alberto Nisman alleged in a complaint that then-Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner and then-Minister of Foreign Relations Hector Timerman conspired to cover up Iranian involvement in the 1994 terrorist bombing, and reportedly agreed to negotiate immunity for Iranian suspects and help get their names removed from the INTERPOL list;

Whereas prosecutor Alberto Nisman was scheduled to present his new findings to the Argentinian Congress on January 19, 2015;

Whereas prosecutor Alberto Nisman was found shot in the head in his apartment in Buenos Aires on January 18, 2015;

Whereas the investigation of the AMIA bombing has been marked by judicial misconduct;

Whereas, in March 2019, an Argentine court handed down convictions and sentences, finding that the judge, prosecutors, and head of the Argentina's secret services—the individuals responsible for investigating the AMIA bombing, Argentina's deadliest terrorist attack—had interfered with the inquiry, diverting the investigation away from the truth;

Whereas former Federal judge Juan José Galeano was handed down a 6-year conviction by the court, which will not be enforced until the sentence is confirmed by a higher tribunal;

Whereas former State Intelligence Secretariat (SIDE) intelligence head Hugo Anzorreguy was handed a prison sentence of 54 months;

Whereas Carlos Telleldin, a used car dealer who sold the van that contained the bomb used to attack AMIA and received a bribe to incriminate police officers falsely, was sentenced to 42 months in jail; and

Whereas no Iranian suspects for the AMIA bombing have yet faced prosecution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1994 attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and honors the victims of this heinous act;

(2) expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims, who have waited a quarter of a century without justice for the loss of their loved ones, and may have to wait even longer for justice to be served;

(3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, 25-year-long delay in the proper resolution of this case; and

(4) expresses strong support for accountability for this attack, including against those Iranian and Hezbollah operatives who were responsible.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 441, a resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, 25 years ago this month.

I have been to that community center. It is a vibrant community center.

It was a horrific bombing that happened 25 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank Mr. DEUTCH for authoring this resolution and for his years of leadership advocating for justice for the victims of the AMIA bombing.

In July of 1994, the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires was bombed. Eighty-five innocent people were killed and at least 300 people were wounded. Almost 25 years later, this heartbreaking tragedy and vicious act of anti-Semitism still is an open wound. Justice has not been served.

This hits close to my heart. I have visited AMIA twice to meet with the community there and pay my respects to the victims and the Argentine Jewish community.

For 25 years, the Argentine people have been waiting for the perpetrators of this horrific act of violence and hate to be brought to justice.

So, I am glad we are considering this resolution today to keep this issue on the front burner and to continue to show solidarity with the victims.

The measure before us condemns the AMIA attack and expresses the United States' condolences to the families of the 85 victims.

This resolution also makes it clear that those responsible for the murder of innocent civilians must be held accountable. Years of investigation have found that the perpetrators of this attack were Hezbollah operatives with strong links to Iranian Government officials.

Despite the international outcry and a stack of Interpol red notices demanding that these individuals be brought to justice, Iran refuses to hold the perpetrators accountable. Par for the course for the Government of Iran.

It is the duty of all of us here in Congress to stand with the Argentine people as they demand that those responsible face consequences for their crimes.

I hope our friends in the Argentine Government and justice system will do everything they can to finally provide closure for the victims' families.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 441, Condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires in July 1994, authored by Mr. DEUTCH of Florida.

In July 1994, a terrorist tied to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah carried out a murderous bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85 innocent people and injuring hundreds more.

Unfortunately, 25 years later, the cowardly perpetrators of this attack have evaded justice due to a series of coverups and a botched investigation. This reminds us that terrorism is a continuing threat in our hemisphere and that we must always be vigilant.

This important resolution condemns the attack, expresses concern over the continued delay in the resolution of the case, and it encourages accountability for those responsible.

The resolution also recognizes a series of critical events, including the mysterious death of the lead prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, who formally accused the Government of Iran and Hezbollah for their role and implicated the Fernandez Kirchner government in negotiating immunity for the Iranian suspects.

This resolution demonstrates our commitment to supporting the Government of Argentina, one of our great regional partners, in finding justice for the victims and their families, and combating the continued threat of terrorism in our hemisphere.

I was grateful to work with my colleague, Mr. DEUTCH, the chairman of the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism Subcommittee, on this important resolution.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 441.

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 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), chairman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the 1994 terror attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires.

On July 18, 1994, terrorists detonated a car bomb in the AMIA building, a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, an important part, a central part of that community. It killed 85 innocent people and injured hundreds more.

This attack, which took place just 2 years after the bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, shook the Argentine Jewish community, the largest in Latin America.

In the 25 years since the attack, the investigations into the AMIA bombing have been marked by long delays and by judicial misconduct, failing thus far to bring justice for the victims, their families, and their community.

Considerable evidence has linked this heinous attack to the terrorist group Hezbollah and its sponsor, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Now, despite warrants issued by the Argentinian justice system for Iranian and Lebanese nationals thought to be involved in the attacks, and their addition on Interpol's most wanted lists, Iranian and Hezbollah operatives have

yet to face accountability for their actions.

We encourage all responsible nations to not allow the perpetrators of this attack to continue to escape justice.

After the previous President of Argentina worked to prevent Iran from being held accountable, Prosecutor Alberto Nisman heroically proceeded investigating this bombing, shedding light on the alarming and growing partnership between leaders in Iran and Argentina. Just 1 day before he was scheduled to present his latest findings, Alberto Nisman was found dead in his home with a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

We are grateful that President Macri's government has continued to push for Iranian accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Ambassador of Argentina, who is in the gallery with us today.

Twenty-five years later, Iranian-backed Hezbollah continues to carry out terror operations. Twenty-five years later, anti-Semitism continues to threaten the lives of Jewish communities throughout Latin America, around the world, and even here in the United States.

With this vote, Congress honors the victims of this horrific attack; recalls the brave work by Alberto Nisman, who lost his life pursuing justice; and calls for full accountability for those responsible. It has been far too long.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the ranking member, Congressman JOE WILSON, ranking member of the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism Subcommittee, and Congressmen ALBIO SIREs and FRANCIS ROONEY, the chair and ranking member of the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, and Trade Subcommittee, for joining me in introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with us against this despicable act of terror. As we recall the victims today, we stand against terror and hatred and anti-Semitism, and we stand for justice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to avoid references to occupants of the gallery.

□ 1515

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

Mr. Speaker, it is an outrage that, after all these years, there still hasn't been justice for the AMIA bombing victims and their families.

This resolution today is a message to the Argentine Jewish community, and to marginalized, victimized communities around the world, that the United States will not forget them and will continue to push for justice.

I am glad my colleague mentioned the prosecutor, Alberto Nisman, because what happened to him, to be murdered a day before he was to present his work, is absolutely a disgrace. Some in the government even

tried to say that it was a suicide, but we know it was not.

I hope that we get to the bottom of the truth and that Mr. Nisman is honored, which he should be. It is just an absolute disgrace that he was murdered.

Again, I thank Mr. DEUTCH for authorizing this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 441 which conveys the indignation and concern many of my colleagues and I have regarding the severe delay in the conclusion of and lack of accountability for the July 1994 AMIA Jewish Community Center attacks.

On July 18, 1994, 85 innocent people lost their lives and 300 more were wounded in an act of terror and hate perpetrated against the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association (AMIA).

This attack came two years after the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires which claimed the lives of an additional 29 civilians.

In both instances, there was considerable evidence that linked the attacks to the Lebanon-based terrorist group Hezbollah, which is supported by the Syrian Arab Republic and is sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the quarter century since the bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, little has been done to bring those responsible, including Iranian officials and their Hezbollah proxies, to justice.

Those charged with bringing the attackers to justice have unfortunately been made victims themselves or since been found to have undermined and misled their investigations into the attacks.

Alberto Nisman, one of the original prosecutors that formally accused the Government of Iran of directing the bombing, was also critical of the Government of Argentina's response to the 1994 AMIA bombing.

Nisman alleged that there was a conspiracy among high-ranking Argentinian government officials, including then-President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, to cover up Iranian involvement.

Unfortunately, Nisman was shot in the head in his apartment the day before he was scheduled to present new findings to the Argentinian Congress.

Other individuals responsible for investigating the AMIA bombing, Argentina's deadliest terrorist attack, have since been convicted by an Argentine court for interfering with the official inquiry and diverting the investigation away from the truth.

As a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 441 and in condemning what has been a systemic failure to carry out justice for the victims of the July 18, 1994 terrorist attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 441.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS ON PEACEFUL PROTESTERS AND SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN-LED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SUDAN

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 432) condemning the attacks on peaceful protesters and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 432

Whereas in 2016, the Government of the United States launched a plan aimed at reducing conflict and expanding humanitarian access in Sudan, improving counterterrorism cooperation, ending Sudan's negative interference in South Sudan, and addressing the threat of the Lord's Resistance Army, that, according to the Department of State, led to significant progress in these areas and resulted in the lifting of some United States sanctions on Sudan in October 2017;

Whereas the Department of State announced "Phase II" of the bilateral reengagement framework with Sudan in November 2018, under which the United States would consider rescinding Sudan's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism if the country met the relevant statutory criteria for delisting and if the Government of Sudan made progress along six identified areas of concern related to counterterrorism cooperation, humanitarian access, respect for human rights, a cessation of internal hostilities and a conducive environment for peace processes, efforts to address outstanding terrorism-related legal claims, and adherence to United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea;

Whereas despite the Government of Sudan's pledge to cease hostilities, the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Sudan reported in January 2019 that forces of the Government of Sudan had launched "large-scale military operations" against insurgents in the Jebel Marra region of Darfur in 2018 and that elements of Sudan's Rapid Support Forces and associated militia were implicated in indiscriminate shootings, rape, acts of torture, and other inhumane treatment of civilians;

Whereas the Department of State's country reports on human rights practices describe reports of serious human rights violations by Sudan's intelligence service and military, including the Rapid Support Forces, citing credible reports that villages in Jebel Marra were targeted for attack in 2018, resulting in the displacement of thousands of civilians and noting that Sudan's Rapid Support Forces were implicated in the majority of reported human rights violations against civilians in the country;

Whereas contrary to the requirements of Phase II, humanitarian organizations report that humanitarian access restrictions have persisted, including bureaucratic interference, and reports of serious human rights abuses and media censorship increased after Phase II was launched;

Whereas in December 2018, protests that began in Damazin and Atbara spread across the country, with thousands of Sudanese gathering to demand political change;

Whereas the Sudanese authorities responded to the protests by detaining hundreds of people, including protesters, members of the political opposition, civil society, journalists, and more than a dozen American citizens, and by using excessive and lethal force against protesters;

Whereas in late February 2019, President Bashir declared a yearlong nationwide state of emergency, dissolving the Federal and State governments and appointing senior military officers to key government posts, banning unauthorized gatherings, demonstrations, and strikes, expanding authorization for searches, seizures, and arrests, and barring news deemed to undermine his government;

Whereas tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of protesters gathered in Khartoum on April 6, 2019, calling for the end of the government of President Bashir, and on April 11, 2019, he was ousted from power by the military and replaced by Defense Minister and First Vice President Lt. Gen. Ahmed Awad Ibn Auf, who later ceded power to Military Inspector General and Army Chief Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan;

Whereas Lt. Gen. Burhan stated that his Transitional Military Council is committed to transferring power to a civilian government, but the Council has sought to maintain the military's dominance in negotiations with opposition representatives on a transitional arrangement;

Whereas protesters maintained their vigil in Khartoum, calling for the military to transfer power to a civilian-led transitional authority that would end Sudan's civil wars, address the country's economic crisis, and lay the foundations for democratic elections;

Whereas the Transitional Military Council has not met the demands of the protesters and the African Union Peace and Security Council to "step aside and hand over power to a civilian-led transitional authority, in accordance with the will of the people and constitutional order";

Whereas on June 3rd, elements of Sudanese security forces, led by the Rapid Support Forces, violently dispersed the sit-in of the protesters and killed over 100 people, with hundreds more injured and reports of rape and other human rights abuses committed;

Whereas negotiations between the Transitional Military Council and the opposition coalition, known as the Forces for Freedom and Change, on the composition and powers of a transitional government are complicated by the role of individuals in the Military Council who have been accused of war crimes, by the Council's insistence on Islamic Sharia law as the basis for laws, and by security forces use of live fire against protesters in the cities of Nuala, Zalingei, and Khartoum, resulting in multiple deaths, during the talks; and

Whereas in the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004, Congress expressed its sense that individuals found to be involved in the planning or carrying out of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity should not hold leadership positions in the Government of Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) stands in solidarity with the people of Sudan and strongly supports the right of the Sudanese people to assemble peacefully and express their legitimate demands for fundamental political change, including a democratic, civilian-led government;

(2) condemns the Government of Sudan's use of violence and arbitrary detention against peaceful protesters and the harassment and intimidation of medical professionals, journalists, human rights defenders, political opposition, and civil society actors;

(3) strongly supports an immediate transfer of power by the military to an inclusive, civilian-led government that reflects the aspirations of the Sudanese people and puts Sudan on the path toward democracy and peace;

(4) condemns efforts by regional actors to undermine negotiations between the Military Council and the protesters, including efforts to offer financial support to military leaders;

(5) encourages the African Union and its member states to continue supporting the Sudanese people's aspirations for democracy, justice, and peace;

(6) urges the United States Government to continue efforts to convene and work with the international community in support of a civilian-led government in Sudan;

(7) emphasizes that a more positive and productive relationship between the United States and Sudan requires meaningful political reform, greater accountability, and a clear demonstration by the Government of Sudan of greater respect for human rights;

(8) calls upon Sudanese authorities to—

(A) immediately cease attacks on protesters and civilians, respect the right to freedom of association and expression, and investigate protester deaths and pursue accountability for serious crimes and human rights abuses that have occurred in the past three decades;

(B) protect the rights of political parties, journalists, human rights defenders, religious minorities, and nongovernmental organizations to operate without interference and release political prisoners;

(C) lift the bureaucratic restrictions on, and facilitate unhindered access across the country for, humanitarian relief operations;

(D) introduce strong measures to create transparency and address the structural corruption and kleptocracy of the state;

(E) meaningfully engage with opposition forces in Darfur, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile with the aim of achieving a just and sustainable peace; and

(F) foster conditions for a viable transition to democracy, economic stability, and sustainable peace and development; and

(9) calls upon the people of Sudan to work together to resolve conflicts peacefully.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 432.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Representatives KILDEE, BILIRAKIS, and MCGOVERN, our Speaker pro tempore, for their hard work on this measure. I was glad to join as an original cosponsor, as well.

Sudan is at a critical moment, Mr. Speaker. Three months ago, when the Transitional Military Council, the TMC, seized power, one of my top concerns was when the reins will be turned

over to civilian authorities. Despite the possibility of a breakthrough between the TMC and the Forces of Freedom and Change, the FFC, I remain concerned that Sudanese security forces intend to tighten their grip on power once again and even more. The sad fact is, for the overwhelming majority of its history since independence, Sudan has been ruled by military dictatorships.

This group, the TMC, has shown the world who they really are, and it is not a pretty picture. On June 3, they turned on the peaceful prodemocracy movement, committing a brutal massacre at the movement's sit-in site.

Following that atrocity, the TMC shut the internet down in a blatant attempt to slow the momentum of antigovernment protesters and kill the prodemocracy movement in its infancy.

Now that internet access has slowly been restored, the world is getting its first glimpses of deeply disturbing images: Sudan's citizens being murdered, tortured, or raped in Khartoum and across the country last month.

These troubling developments start to make sense when we look at the cast of characters involved. The deputy of the TMC, General Mohamed Hamdan "Hemeti," leads the Rapid Support Forces. We know them as the Janjaweed, and we know that they have on their hands the blood of the Darfur genocide. Now, they are turning their violent tactics against the broader Sudanese population.

These are the same thugs responsible for the repression and economic mismanagement that characterized Omar al-Bashir's three blood-soaked decades in power. He is gone, but they continue to drive the country into the ground.

Thankfully, the Sudanese people are resilient. They continue to fight for their country's future, even in the face of violence and repression. Their civil society and diaspora networks have helped to shine a light on what the people in Sudan are enduring. They have had enough, and the United States and partners around the world need to have their backs.

This resolution underscores Congress' desire to see a civilian-led transition in Sudan, a transition free from violence and bloodshed. It is a good resolution. I am glad the House is considering it.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution condemning the attacks on peaceful protesters and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan. I thank Congressman KILDEE, Congressman BILIRAKIS, and Chairman ENGEL for their leadership on this issue.

For months, thousands of Sudanese peacefully took to the streets to pro-

test the brutal and oppressive dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir. In April, he was removed from office.

I condemn the brutal attacks against peaceful protesters that took place on June 3. Over 120 people were killed, and hundreds more were wounded. The security forces responsible for carrying out and orchestrating these heinous attacks must be held accountable.

While we are hopeful that the July 5 agreement on the composition of a transitional government will be officially signed and set into motion, there is still much more to be done to advance a true civilian-led democracy. We cannot tolerate spoilers of this process, particularly those who look to support the status quo and the military regime in Khartoum.

I support the diplomatic efforts of Special Envoy Booth and commend President Donald Trump's administration for convening high-level working groups to align other countries in supporting a peaceful and democratic future for Sudan. We must continue our engagement at the highest levels to stand with the Sudanese people and their struggle for freedom and democracy.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the author of this bill.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. ENGEL, the chairman, for his leadership on this issue, and my friends Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. WILSON, and, obviously, Mr. MCGOVERN, who have been working on this with me, along with Congresswoman BASS.

Congress cannot sit idly by while one nation kills its own people, blocks all communication to the outside world, and commits serious human rights violations. The people of Sudan, like all people, deserve the ability to determine their own future. They deserve a civilian-led democratic society. They deserve to not have to live in constant fear of violence.

It is for these reasons that we offer this resolution to affirm the position of the United States Congress, despite views that we may differ on, on other matters, and that we come together, Democrats and Republicans, across the political spectrum to denounce the trampling of human rights that is taking place in Sudan, to call on the Transitional Military Council to immediately stop any violence against those civilian protesters, and to begin the immediate transition to a civilian-led government.

The Sudanese people have a right to be free. They have a right to a democratic society. They have a right to not have to deal with the kind of oppression that they have experienced.

This resolution also lays out some very clear areas where Sudan simply has to improve if it wants to have a

productive relationship with the U.S. I believe that the U.S. should be engaged with Sudan, but we have to insist that the Sudan that we engage with and that the Sudan that we work with is a nation that is led by its own people and not subjected to the horrific examples of persecution that we have seen.

For three decades, the people of Sudan have suffered under terrible repression. Now that we have this moment where the page is turned, the worst thing would be to succeed one terrible period of oppression with another. That is why it is somewhat hopeful to see that there are some signs that some view as reason for optimism.

We have to make sure that this transition to a civilian-led government is something that actually takes place and that we don't allow Sudan to simply go back to the kind of military-led repression that we saw under Bashir. That is completely unacceptable.

While the situation is fluid, we have an opportunity to state with a very clear voice from the Congress of the United States, from the American people, to the people of Sudan and to the people of the world that the world is watching. We are paying attention to what takes place. We have a stake in the freedom of the people of Sudan.

That is why we are speaking up with one voice today. I am honored to join with my colleagues, as I said, across the aisle and across the political spectrum to speak with one voice on this subject. Congress has a chance to make a difference on this. The people of the United States stand with the people of Sudan. We deserve better, and they deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all of my colleagues to join us in this resolution and call for freedom and justice for the people of Sudan.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the primary Republican cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILSON for yielding. He is a great friend, as well as the chairman. I thank Chairman ENGEL for putting this on the floor. Of course, I thank my colead, Mr. KILDEE.

Sudan is at a critical juncture between choosing freedom and democracy or continuing with authoritarian oppression. This resolution today is a powerful message for the United States that we stand behind the civilian protesters and a civilian-led government.

Yesterday's violence and the horrific brutality on June 3 proved that elements of the old regime are still alive and well, unfortunately. Bad actors within the military, such as the Rapid Support Forces, should be condemned for their actions and have no place in Sudan's future.

The United States and the international community need to maintain pressure on the military council to

cease all attacks on peaceful protestors and civilians and to respect their right to assemble peacefully. The Rapid Support Forces and other perpetrators of violence also need to be held accountable for their violent acts. These bad actors have no place in a peaceful and democratic Sudan.

Again, I am proud to be the colead on this timely resolution with Mr. KILDEE. I thank him for his leadership.

One story that I like to tell is when I was in Sudan, in March, I met with a United States citizen who was a political prisoner there, detained since January 4, away from his four children and his wife. He went over to Sudan a few years ago to take care of his mother, his elderly mother, and I respect that tremendously. He allowed his brother, who also is a U.S. citizen, to come to the United States and practice medicine.

Well, in any case, the gentleman was detained because he took his body to a peaceful rally, a peaceful protest, a democratic rally for democracy, and he was detained and put in jail. I met with him outside of jail and he told me his story. We demanded his release, and within a few days he was released, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, this just tells you that we have a voice here, as United States Members of Congress, and we need to use it for a good cause. This is definitely a good cause.

□ 1530

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), chairwoman of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H. Res. 432, condemning the attacks on the Sudanese people peacefully protesting their right to have a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan. The legislation emphasizes a positive and productive relationship between the United States and Sudan and demands significant political reforms and more accountability.

The situation in Sudan escalated in December 2018 and has been unstable ever since. The Transitional Military Council used Sudanese security forces to shoot peaceful protesters, leaving bodies in the Nile River. They shut down the internet for a month to try and disparage citizens from a united front and blocked journalists from doing their jobs, a clear violation of the freedom of the press.

The people of Sudan have the right to assemble and demand that the Sudanese security forces negotiate without being killed or wounded. The international community and its partners must continue to demand that the security forces stop assaulting their own citizens and adhere to the July 5 agreement.

The recent attempted coup was a ploy to try and deter the agreement,

and the Transitional Military Council nor the civilian-led faction must deviate from this process. This agreement is too important, and the future of Sudan is at stake.

The agreement would potentially end months of atrocities and gross human rights abuses that have destabilized the country. The negotiated deal would have five Military Council members, five civilian members, and one civilian member chosen by both parties. The military member would lead the council for the first 21 months and then transition into a civilian-led council thereafter. This is a step in the right direction because both the Transitional Military Council and civilian-led groups negotiated the settlement.

I am also calling on the Sudanese Traditional Military Council to immediately open up the internet because it was a clear violation of the freedom of the press. Journalists must also be able to do their jobs and report and write on stories without being intimidated or physically harmed.

I support this resolution because it encourages the rights and freedoms of all Sudanese people and their right to peacefully protest and assemble and their right to a civilian-led government.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the chairman of the Rules Committee and one of the most vocal Members on Sudan in Congress. He has done great work for many years.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise in support of H. Res. 432, and I want to commend my good friend and colleague, Mr. KILDEE, for his leadership on this issue. I also want to commend the incredible work of Chairman ENGEL for all he has done on this issue, as well as Chairwoman BASS and Mr. BILIRAKIS and others here.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to express my unwavering support for the people of Sudan in their long-held desire to live in a democratic nation, a nation where all the Sudanese people live in dignity and where their rights and freedoms are respected and protected.

For three decades, the people of Sudan have suffered under the brutal, genocidal regime of Omar al-Bashir. They were murdered, mutilated, bombed, starved, imprisoned, tortured, and raped by Bashir's army, air force, police, intelligence unit, and paramilitary allies, formerly known as the Janjaweed and now organized as the Sudanese Rapid Support Forces.

Villages were burned to the ground, churches destroyed, radio stations and the press shut down, protests violently repressed, and food and medicine denied to populations at risk.

Last December, the people of Sudan rose up in massive protests across the

country and said: Enough. No more. The time for change is now.

On April 11, Bashir was removed from office by the Sudanese military. But instead of turning the government over to the civilian-led council, they took power for themselves.

On May 16, 92 Members of Congress sent a bipartisan, bicameral letter to the administration expressing support for a civilian-led transition in Sudan and concern about the military's escalating violence against the peaceful protesters, which I include in the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 16, 2019.

Hon. MIKE POMPEO,
Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State,
Washington, DC.

STEVEN MNUCHIN,
Secretary of the Treasury, U.S. Department of
the Treasury, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY POMPEO AND SECRETARY MNUCHIN: We write to express our deep concern about the current situation in Sudan and our support for a rapid transfer of power to a civilian-led transitional government committed to laying the foundations for democracy in the country. This is a critical moment for Sudan, one that came about because the Sudanese people took to the streets to demand it. It is also critical for the United States to support Sudanese citizens' demands for real democratic change.

We welcome the April 18th statement by the State Department supporting "a transition to a peaceful and democratic Sudan led by civilians who represent the diversity of Sudanese society," and expressing support for the "will of the Sudanese people" for "a transitional government that is inclusive and respectful of human rights and the rule of law." We appreciate the efforts of the Africa Bureau to update congressional offices about the changing situation in Sudan. We also acknowledge the African Union's condemnation of the military takeover as a coup d'état and its demand that the military "step aside and hand over power to a transitional civilian-led political authority, in accordance with the will of the people" by June 3rd. We also welcome U.S. efforts to bring together like-minded nations and donors to emphasize international support for a civilian-led transition.

The military leadership who have taken power are attempting to create the appearance of change, but elements and structures of the old regime remain. The Transitional Military Council (TMC) does not meet the aspirations so clearly articulated by months of peaceful pro-democracy protests that demanded an inclusive, civilian-led democratic change. A government dominated by the military is not the goal of the Sudanese people and the longer the protestors' demands remain unfulfilled, there is increased probability of conflict like the violence against protestors, deaths and injuries that occurred this week.

We support your decision to continue Sudan's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) and to suspend Phase II discussions. Congress also has a role to play in law regarding changes to Sudan's status as a state sponsor of terrorism. We encourage close consultation with and the consent of Congress should the Administration seek to alter the SST designation or provide further economic relief to Sudan, actions which at the current moment would be inappropriate and premature. We understand that rapidly changing events on the ground might require a corresponding change in U.S. policy and we are ready to work as equal partners in deci-

sions that advance civilian democratic governance, respect for human rights, including religious freedom, and rule of law.

The United States must send a clear message that the path to international credibility and American partnership will only come through credible civilian leadership. We encourage you to use all mechanisms and leverage to facilitate, as quickly as possible, an inclusive civilian-led transition to democratic governance. The United States should make clear to foreign governments that have expressed support for the TMC that a civilian transition that reflects the will of the Sudanese people is nonnegotiable.

In this regard, we are dismayed by the announcement from the Governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that they intend to provide Sudan with \$3 billion in budget support and aid. We urge you to use all appropriate diplomatic and political channels to discourage such a transfer of funds. If funds are disbursed, this will likely encourage the TMC to delay a civilian-led transition.

The Sudanese people will rightly determine matters of justice regarding the crimes of the previous regime, given the millions of people who suffered and perished under its deliberate and repressive actions. It is important for you, Mr. Secretaries, to emphasize that former President Bashir and other officials and military officers of his regime are internationally indicted for war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of genocide. It is an urgent matter of international law that they face trial and judgement on these charges.

There are additional actions that we strongly encourage you to take in your respective capacities as Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury:

When a civilian-led transitional council is established—one supported by the pro-democracy movement and the Sudanese people—it is vital that the United States press for unimpeded access by international humanitarian aid agencies so that they may finally deliver, without interference or conditions, emergency relief to populations in conflict areas such as South Kordofan, Blue Nile and northern Darfur. We understand this is also a current priority for the U.S. and other aid donors, but unobstructed delivery of humanitarian aid to these regions is likely to remain stalled until inclusive civilian rule is established.

To support and increase the capacity of civilian leadership and civil society, the United States should provide transitional civilian authorities and entities with technical and capacity-building assistance.

The United States, in consultation with Congress, should signal its willingness to engage with and support international financial institutions in aiding Sudan once civilian-led transitional authorities are in place and functioning.

The State Department should not issue visas to any Sudanese official to travel to the United States until credible civilian-led government is in place and functioning independently. Nor should any Sudanese or TMC official be issued a visa who has been internationally indicted, or who might be subject to justice in Sudan for war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

Treasury, in consultation with the State Department and relevant congressional committees, should continue to use the sanctions authorities provided under the Global Magnitsky program to target key Sudanese individuals, officials, entities and networks.

Recognizing Sudan's extensive corruption, money-laundering operations and theft of state resources, it is critical for the United States to provide leadership on preventing funds from being moved out of the country

during this period when the former Bashir regime is being pushed aside but current regime structures remain in place. The Treasury Department should issue public advisories to banks and other financial institutions regarding the risk of such capital flight and other high-risk transactions from Sudan, such as the gold trade. This would be an action like the one taken by Treasury in 2014 related to Ukraine. It is also critical that the Treasury Department continue to track and respond aggressively to similar transfers of funds that occurred prior to Bashir's downfall.

Thank you for your attention to these urgent concerns and recommendations. We look forward to working together and developing a new policy framework consistent with American values and the aspirations of the Sudanese people.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern; Ann Wagner; Karen Bass; Jeffrey A. Merkley; Todd Young; Christopher H. Smith; Chris Van Hollen; Tina Smith; Gary C. Peters; Roger F. Wicker; Richard J. Durbin; Richard Blumenthal; Elizabeth Warren.

Eliot L. Engel; Barbara Lee; Adam B. Schiff; Nita M. Lowey; Frank Pallone, Jr.; Maxine Waters; Zoe Lofgren; Raúl M. Grijalva; Michael T. McCaul; Gus M. Bilirakis; Barry Loudermilk; Steve Watkins; Mark Meadows; Elijah E. Cummings; John A. Yarmuth; John Lewis.

Naydia M. Velázquez; David Trone; Chellie Pingree; Gwen S. Moore; Gregory W. Meeks; Yvette D. Clarke; Jan Schakowsky; Donald M. Payne, Jr.; Peter A. DeFazio; Eleanor Holmes Norton; Sheila Jackson Lee; Grace Meng; Jared Huffman; Bonnie Watson Coleman; Federica S. Wilson; Joaquin Castro.

Earl Blumenauer; Mike Doyle; Pramila Jayapal; Jim Costa; David N. Cicilline; Suzanne Bonamici; Steve Cohen; Ihan Omar; Jamie Raskin; Bobby L. Rush; Mark Pocan; Daniel T. Kildee; Andy Levin; Seth Moulton; Chrissy Houlahan; Jennifer Wexton.

José E. Serrano; Donald S. Beyer, Jr.; Alan S. Lowenthal; Darren Soto; Val Butler Demings; Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.; Stephen F. Lynch; Ruben Gallego; Anna G. Eshoo; Emanuel Cleaver, II; Peter Welch; Albio Sires; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; André Carson; Lori Trahan; Mark DeSaulnier.

Paul D. Tonko; Danny K. Davis; Ron Kind; Ro Khanna; Rosa L. DeLauro; Ann McLane Kuster; William R. Keating; Adriano Espaillat; Katherine M. Clark; Brian Higgins; Richard E. Neal; Joseph P. Kennedy, III; Eddie Bernice Johnson; Ayanna Pressley; Norma J. Torres.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we had good reason to be concerned. Just 2 weeks later, in a clear demonstration of how little has changed, the Sudanese police and RSF, under the leadership of the Transitional Military Council's second in command, General Hemeti violently attacked the unarmed protesters, killing, wounding, and raping hundreds.

In an act of great cowardice and complicity, the Sudanese military chose to withdraw from the scene or stood by and watched the attack, doing nothing to protect the people. The Transitional Military Council then shut down the internet so information about the massacre couldn't come out. Last week,

they were forced to restore the internet, and the world has now seen hundreds of videos documenting this heinous crime.

On Saturday, thousands demonstrated to mark the 40 days since the deadly crackdown. Right now, African mediators are attempting to broker the details of a power-sharing agreement between the forces of freedom and change people's alliance in the Transitional Military Council.

I hope that they are successful in reaching a deal that guarantees a genuine civilian-led transition and democratic governance, but I don't want to see the civilian-led democratic reform movement undermined and forced to accept a bad deal, one where power and the corrupt and brutal structures of the former regime remain under military control.

Mr. Speaker, like so many of my colleagues, I have been engaged on the issue of Sudan for nearly 15 years. On April 28, 2006, I led Members of Congress, religious, and NGO leaders in an act of civil disobedience at the Sudanese Embassy to highlight the atrocities taking place in Darfur. It was my first of three such direct actions.

On May 1 of that year, I joined over 50 of those people on The National Mall to protest the genocide in Darfur. I took my young son and daughter to see how people from all walks of life came together in solidarity with the people of Sudan and demanded action.

Mr. Speaker, my children are now grown and in college, so I am not exaggerating when I say that what we are seeing happening today in Sudan is a once-in-a-generation moment for the people of Sudan. We cannot be silent.

Along with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I want the people of Sudan to know that we stand with them, that we have always stood with them, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 432, a very important resolution that condemns the attacks on peaceful protesters and supports an immediate, peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan.

I am so incredibly inspired by the people of Sudan who organized peacefully and adhered consistently to a nonviolent strategy of protest in order to achieve a democratic future for their country.

I especially want to call attention to the Sudanese women, who played an outsized role in holding strong in the face of violence, danger, and even death. In the words of Andrew Gilmour, the Assistant Secretary-General for human rights at OHCHR:

What the world has seen in the past month and still now will go down in history as the greatest mass non-violent movement of our generation.

Because of this nonviolent people's movement that refused to accept no for an answer, even in the face of brutal and barbaric violence from government-linked militias, the people of Sudan have achieved a real opportunity for peace. Just last week, civilian leaders and the Transitional Military Council reached an agreement where they will share power to pursue a democratic future.

In order for that peaceful transition to work, there must also be justice for those who were killed in the June 3 massacre through an independent investigation with real consequences for the perpetrators, along with true civilian oversight of the security forces.

I am heartbroken for every life that was lost, but I am also deeply hopeful because we have seen the shining light of courage, resilience, and commitment to nonviolent resistance movements and to the possibilities they bring for lasting peace. The United States must stand with the people of Sudan and do everything in our power to help achieve that peace and stability.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, I just want to recognize a very important person in my home State of Washington, Mubarak Elamin, who has been with me on this issue of Sudan, his birth country, in making sure that we have all the information we need.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank my colleagues for offering this timely resolution to condemn the brutal attacks on peaceful protesters and stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan.

The United States must continue our efforts to support a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan and take action against those who wish to undermine the will of the Sudanese people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and, of course the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. MCGOVERN.

What happens in Sudan in the coming weeks and months is a high priority for the United States. It is in our national security interest to support a peaceful, civilian-led political transition in Sudan and is consistent with our values to support the democratic aspirations of a people who have suffered under a brutal, violent rule for so long.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 432, a resolution

“Condemning the attacks on peaceful protesters and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan.”

H. Res. 432 is a bipartisan resolution calling on the Sudanese government to transition power to a civilian led government, to respect democratic principles, and to end all violence against its citizens.

Since the ousting of President Al-Bashir on April 11, 2019 the Transitional Military Council (TMC) has seized power halting the proposed transition to a representative democracy.

On June 3, 2019 multiple peaceful protesters were killed in Sudan as the Sudanese government continues to perpetuate violence against its own people.

Protests in Sudan continue, however, as the Sudanese people call for a transition from a military ruling council to true democratic governance.

It is critical for the United States Congress to stand with the women and men advocating and speaking up for the Sudanese people.

I applaud the efforts and sacrifices pro-democracy activists have made and they ought to know that the United States fully supports their desire for freedom and peace, and strongly condemns the violent and oppressive tactics of the Transitional Military Council.

When enacted, H. Res. 432 will lay out areas where the Sudanese government must improve if it wants to continue a productive engagement with the United States, including political reform and a respect for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 432 to confront these atrocities we have seen in Sudan which pose a strong threat the democratic values we work to protect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 432, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ENGEL. 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.

RECOGNIZING WIDENING THREATS TO FREEDOMS OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 345) recognizing widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2019, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 345

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris, December 10, 1948, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day”—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press;

(2) to evaluate freedom of the press around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/163 on the safety of journalists and the problem of impunity, which unequivocally condemns all attacks on, and violence against, journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in conflict and nonconflict situations;

Whereas the theme for World Press Freedom Day 2019, is “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Democracy in Times of Disinformation”;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who recognized the importance of the press in a constitutional republic, wisely declared, “. . . were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-166; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual country reports on human rights practices of the Department of State;

Whereas the 2019 World Press Freedom Index, published by Reporters Without Borders, warns, “The number of countries regarded as safe, where journalists can work in complete security, continues to decline, while authoritarian regimes tighten their grip on the media.”;

Whereas, Freedom House’s publication “Freedom in the World 2019” noted that global freedom of expression has declined each year for the past 13 years;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2018—

(1) at least 54 journalists were killed around the world for their work, of which at least 34 were singled out for murder;

(2) the 2 deadliest countries for journalists on assignment were Afghanistan and Syria;

(3) the most dangerous subject for a journalist to report on was politics, followed by war;

(4) 251 journalists worldwide were in prison, with Turkey, China, and Egypt responsible for more than half of the jailed journalists;

(5) 13 percent of the journalists in jail were female, an increase from 8 percent in 2017;

(6) 70 percent of the journalists who were imprisoned around the world faced antistate charges, such as belonging to or aiding groups deemed by authorities as terrorist organizations; and

(7) the number of journalists imprisoned on charges of false news rose to 28 globally, compared with 9 such imprisonments in 2016;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China maintains one of the worst media environments in the world and seeks to curtail political speech inside and outside the country including by—

(1) targeting independent and foreign media in China through systematic harassment including the denial of visas to foreign journalists, imprisonment, the denial of medical care to imprisoned journalists, and curtailing access to legal representation;

(2) pervasively monitoring and censoring online and social media content, including through the banning of virtual private networks;

(3) using the full force of the State to stifle internal dissent including dissent online, particularly dissent that could lead to political change and content that criticizes China’s leaders, however trivial, reportedly even to the point of censoring comparisons of Xi Jinping’s looks with Winnie the Pooh;

(4) spreading propaganda to foreign audiences through the United Front Work Department and related activities;

(5) seeking to intimidate American-based journalists working for Radio Free Asia and reporting on gross human rights violations in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region by jailing or otherwise harassing members of their families; and

(6) championing a “sovereign Internet” model and exporting technology to enhance the ability of like-minded authoritarian regimes to suppress dissent online and monitor the activity of their people;

Whereas, Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, recipients of the 2018 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award were arrested in December 2017 for investigating the murder by the Burmese military of 10 Rohingya men in the village of Inn Dinn in Rakhine State and were unjustly detained for 500 days before they were released on May 7, 2019, as part of a mass amnesty of 6,520 prisoners;

Whereas freedom of the press has been under considerable pressure in recent years throughout Southeast Asia, including in the Philippines, where the Government has waged a campaign of judicial harassment against the news website Rappler and its editor, Maria Ressa;

Whereas, Nouf Abdulaziz, Loujain Al-Hathloul, and Eman Al-Nafjan, recipients of the 2019 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award, who wrote in opposition to Saudi Arabia’s repressive Guardianship system, have been subjected to imprisonment, solitary confinement, and torture by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia since May 2018 in an apparent effort to suppress dissent and silence the voices of women;

Whereas, Washington Post journalist and United States resident Jamal Khashoggi was murdered by a team of Saudi operatives while visiting the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey;

Whereas the Senate unanimously approved a resolution stating that Mr. Khashoggi’s murder was carried out at the behest of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman;

Whereas journalist Mimi Mefo Takambou was jailed for 4 days in Cameroon in November 2018 on charges of spreading false news while investigating the death of an American missionary, where 4 out of the 7 total journalists imprisoned in Cameroon were jailed for spreading false news, which is a rising trend in Cameroon and elsewhere around the world;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 26 journalists were killed in Honduras since 2007, making it one of the most deadly countries for journalists in the Americas, and where journalist Leonardo Gabriel Hernandez was murdered

in March 2019 after receiving threats related to his work;

Whereas in Nicaragua, Miguel Mora and Lucía Pineda Ubau, the directors of the country’s only 24-hour cable news network, have been jailed since December 2018 on charges of fomenting hate, spreading fake news, and terrorism, and prominent journalist Carlos Fernando Chamorro has fled the country as President Daniel Ortega cracks down on free expression in a bid to silence dissent and end the protests against him;

Whereas in Mexico, which remains the most dangerous country in the Western Hemisphere for journalists—

(1) murders, death threats, and legal impunity cause journalists to self-censor their reporting out of fear;

(2) investigative journalist Carlos Dominguez Ramirez, who wrote frequently on local politics and corruption, was brutally murdered in front of family members on January 13, 2018, in Nuevo Laredo, and a politician he was investigating was subsequently arrested in connection with this heinous act; and

(3) Rafael Murúa Manríquez was abducted and murdered in January 2019 after reporting threats from an official in the municipal government for critical reporting;

Whereas Slovakian journalist Ján Kuciak and his partner Martina Kušnírová were murdered in February 2018, allegedly in retaliation for his investigative reporting of tax fraud in connection to a businessman with close ties to Slovakia’s ruling party, where the perpetrator awaits trial, just 4 months after the murder of another European journalist, Malta’s Daphne Caruana Galizia, for her reporting on corruption;

Whereas the world’s growing cadre of ethical and hard-hitting investigative journalists, including those contributing to the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project—

(1) adhere to the highest professional standards;

(2) uncover abuses and corruption being committed in their own countries; and

(3) deserve the international community’s support and praise for taking on the risky job of fostering accountability and transparency in their respective countries;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Radio y Television Marti, and the Middle East Broadcast Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas freedom of the press—

(1) is a key component of democratic governance, activism in civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

(2) enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation in civil society and democratic governance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns threats to freedom of the press and free expression around the world;

(2) remembers the bravery of journalists and media workers around the world who, despite threats to their safety, play an essential role in—

(A) promoting government accountability;

(B) defending democratic activity; and

(C) strengthening civil society;

(3) remembers journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work;

(4) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 163 (2013) by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(5) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(6) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance around the world; and

(7) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to freedom of the press, on the basis of the protections afforded the American people under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(B) to improve the rapid identification, publication, and response by the United States Government to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(C) to urge foreign governments to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(D) to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press in the annual country reports on human rights practices of the Department of State and through diplomatic channels.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) 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. Res. 345.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank Representative SCHIFF and Representative CHABOT for introducing this resolution which recognizes that the freedoms of the press and expression are being threatened globally.

A free press is an essential pillar in every democracy. It shines light on corruption, speaks truth to power, and holds the government accountable. However, in recent years, there has been a growing assault on a free press.

Mr. Speaker, there are far too many shocking examples of journalists being silenced, imprisoned, tortured, and even murdered around the world, with each abuse only furthering a 13-year decline in the freedom of expression.

The price of protecting these rights has become extremely high. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, in 2018, 54 journalists were killed and 64 went missing.

At a time when the world looks to the United States to be champions for a free press, some call our journalists the enemy of the people. This adminis-

tration's attack on the media undermines the First Amendment and creates a culture of intimidation and hostility towards journalists.

By accusing media outlets of producing fake news, journalists find themselves less safe, and our country is less informed. So H. Res. 345 condemns threats to independent media and calls on governments to continue to address journalists' safety. It also reiterates the vital importance of a free press in the U.S. and to well-functioning democracies abroad, as well.

It is our duty now, more than ever, to protect the freedom of the press and the public's right to information. I ask all Members to support this bipartisan resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to condemn dangerous threats to freedom of the press and freedom of expression around the world, understanding that the media has a responsibility of fairness without bias and an independent media is a cornerstone of an educated society and a necessary pillar to a healthy democracy.

Unfortunately, freedom of the press and freedom of expression are not protected in many countries.

Dictators fear anything that challenges their power. They go to great lengths to restrict the rights of their citizens and control their own people. They attack human rights activists and protesters who march in the street.

The last thing that a tyrant wants is to be exposed as a corrupt and immoral leader. As a result, they intimidate, arrest, and sometimes kill members of the media for doing their jobs.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 251 reporters worldwide were being held in prison in 2018. More than half of them were being held in Turkey, China, and Egypt.

Last year, over 54 journalists were killed in the line of duty. Thirty-four of them were murder victims.

Of course, sadly, we are all familiar with the heinous killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post who was murdered by Saudi agents.

These crimes are completely unacceptable. Republicans and Democrats stand together as Americans in condemning foreign governments that attack journalists and crack down on press freedoms.

This resolution allows us to speak in a unified voice to express our support for those who want to report the news without fearing for their lives. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Cali-

fornia (Mr. SCHIFF), who is the author of this bill and the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 345, a resolution to recognize the central importance of press freedom in a democratic society and calling attention to threats to press freedom around the globe.

I am proud to sponsor this bipartisan legislation, which I introduced with my colleague, Congressman STEVE CHABOT, with whom I co-chair the Press Freedom Caucus. I thank, as well, Mr. ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL for moving forward this resolution.

Every day, journalists around the world bring forward vital information and stories, sometimes from behind the curtain of the world's most repressive regimes and amid war zones. Journalists expose corruption, malfeasance, and abuse that the wealthy and powerful may seek to conceal. For that, they face harassment, threats, persecution, assaults, and even death.

The purpose of this resolution today is to call attention to those threats and to make clear that Congress supports press freedoms here and around the world.

Recent years have been some of the most dangerous and deadly in memory for journalists. As we confront a rising tide of authoritarianism around the world, threats to press freedom are proliferating in many countries from repressive governments. Elsewhere, inadequate security and a lack of accountability have made journalists vulnerable to criminal or terrorist actors.

The resolution before the House today lists just a small sample of the cases in which journalists around the world have been killed or imprisoned for their work. I would like to speak to just a few of these cases and those that have occurred in the short months since the resolution's introduction.

Among them, of course, is the case of Jamal Khashoggi, the Saudi human rights advocate, U.S. resident, and Washington Post columnist who last year was brutally murdered and dismembered at the orders of the highest reaches of the Saudi Government.

Jamal's murder has been a rallying cry of sorts, but it stands alone in the worldwide attention it has received. All the same, it is tragically far from unique.

Fewer are aware of the cases involving Loujain Al-Hathloul, Nouf Abdulaziz, and Eman Al-Nafjan, three Saudi women who wrote critically of the kingdom's treatment of women and who have been imprisoned for more than a year; or of the acute threat to journalists in the Philippines where the regime of Rodrigo Duterte has attacked independent media with a campaign of judicial harassment and investigation, including the online media outlet Rappler lead and its editor, Maria Ressa; or in China, where authorities target independent and foreign media for harassment and detention, including the labor reporter Wei

Zhili, who was arrested in March. Authorities also block American-based journalists and others who have sought to report on human rights violations and mass detention of Uighurs in Xinjiang province.

Turkey has become the leading jailer of journalists under the rule of President Erdogan, where, just last month, Turkish authorities charged two Bloomberg journalists who reported on the economic crisis in Turkey with undermining the Turkish economy and sought to imprison them.

In Iran, economics reporter Marzieh Amiri was arrested covering May Day demonstrations and has been held since, with little information about her well-being or the status of the charges against her.

In Mexico, reporters can pay with their lives for reporting on the crimes of drug cartels or corrupt local officials, including investigative journalists like Carlos Rodriguez, who was murdered in front of his family, or, more recently, Norma Sarabia, who was murdered in her home in Tabasco state and whose killers remain at large.

Of course, many Americans are all too well aware of the case of Austin Tice, an American working as an independent journalist in Syria who was kidnapped by forces aligned with the Syrian regime in 2012 and today is believed to still remain a hostage nearly 7 years later. We continue to do all we can to obtain information about his whereabouts and to secure his safe return.

Mr. Speaker, today, by passing this legislation, the House can send a message to journalists who face persecution for their work that we stand with them and value their contributions. For those who seek to intimidate and silence them, we send the message that we are watching.

The voice of people seeking justice cannot be silenced forever. We will stand strongly with all those around the world fighting for accountability and truth.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairman SCHIFF and Congressman CHABOT for their bipartisan work on this issue. The United States must continue to provide a strong voice for a free press and independent media across the globe emphasizing fairness. Supporting a free press must remain an essential part of America's foreign policy, and I urge all Members to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 345 is an important resolution that honors journalists and calls on the United States and governments abroad to protect the freedom of the press. I commend Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. CHABOT for this.

Press freedom is fundamental in democracies and enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation in governance. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 345, in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day.

This resolution recognizes widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, affirms the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and holds freedom of the press as a central principle in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day on May 3, 2019.

In this resolution, the House of Representatives:

Expresses concern about threats to freedom of the press and free expression around the world on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day;

commends journalists and media workers around the world, despite threats to their safety, for their essential role in—

promoting government accountability; defending democratic activity; and strengthening civil society;

pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work;

calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 163 (2013), by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 345 also condemns all actions around the world which suppress freedom of the press; and recognizes the importance of a free and independent press in supporting democracy, mitigating conflict, and promoting good governance around the world.

Finally, the resolution calls on the President and the Secretary of State:

To preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to freedom of the press, on the basis of the protections afforded the American people under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

to improve the rapid identification, publication, and response by the United States Government to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

to urge foreign governments to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press in the annual country reports on human rights practices of the Department of State and through diplomatic channels.

I stand in strong support of this resolution and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to pass H. Res. 345, to commemorate the importance of World Press Freedom Day.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 345, 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.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution responding to widening threats to freedoms of the press and expression around the world, reaffirming the centrality of a free and independent press to the health of democracy, and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority of the United States in promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance on World Press Freedom Day."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAUDI ARABIA HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2037) to encourage accountability for the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 2037

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 "Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RELATING TO THE KILLING OF WASHINGTON POST COLUMNIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report consisting of—

(1) a determination and presentation of evidence with respect to the advance knowledge and role of any current or former official of the Government of Saudi Arabia or any current or former senior Saudi political figure over the directing, ordering, or tampering of evidence in the killing of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi; and

(2) a list of foreign persons that the Director of National Intelligence has high confidence—

(A) were responsible for, or complicit in, ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing an act or acts contributing to or causing the death of Jamal Khashoggi;

(B) knowingly and materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an activity described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) impeded the impartial investigation of the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, including through the tampering of evidence relating to the investigation.

(b) FORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(2) NAMES OF FOREIGN PERSONS LISTED.—The name of each foreign person listed in the report described in subsection (a)(2) shall be included in the unclassified portion of the report unless the Director of National Intelligence determines that such disclosure would undermine United States intelligence sources and methods or threaten the national security interests of the United States.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

SEC. 3. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN SECTION 2(a)(2).

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—On and after the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the sanctions described in subsection (b) shall be imposed with respect to each foreign person listed in the report described in section 2(a)(2).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—

(i) Inadmissibility to the United States.

(ii) Ineligibility to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States.

(iii) Ineligibility to otherwise be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person’s possession.

(2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a foreign person if admitting or paroling the person into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(3) WAIVER IN THE INTEREST OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—The President may waive the application of this section with respect to a foreign person who is A-1 visa eligible and who is present in or seeking admission into the United States for purposes of official business if the President determines and transmits to the appropriate congressional committees written notice and justification not later than 15 days before the granting of such waiver, that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(c) SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may suspend in whole or in part the imposition of sanctions otherwise required under this section for periods not to exceed 180 days if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the following criteria have been met in Saudi Arabia:

(A) The Government of Saudi Arabia has released any individual who is a journalist, blogger, human rights defender, advocate for religious liberty, or civil society activist detained by the Government of Saudi Arabia.

(B) The Government of Saudi Arabia is cooperating in outstanding criminal proceedings in the United States in which a

Saudi citizen or national departed from the United States while the citizen or national was awaiting trial or sentencing for a criminal offense committed in the United States.

(C) The Government of Saudi Arabia is refraining from the obstruction of the free expression of opinion and restriction of individuals from engaging in public criticism of the political sphere.

(D) The Government of Saudi Arabia has made verifiable commitments to cease the practice of harming citizens of Saudi Arabia conducting peaceful dissent, whether or not those citizens reside in Saudi Arabia, including enforced repatriation, disappearance, arrest, imprisonment, or harassment.

(E) The Government of Saudi Arabia has taken verifiable steps to hold accountable Saudi violators of human rights, whether or not those violations took place in Saudi Arabia.

(F) The Government of Saudi Arabia has taken verifiable steps to repeal any law or regulation that requires Saudi women to obtain approval from a male guardian in order to leave the country.

(G) The Government of Saudi Arabia—

(i) has made public the names of all individuals under prosecution for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and associated crimes and the details of the charges such individuals face;

(ii) has made public the trial proceedings and all evidence against the accused;

(iii) has invited international, independent experts to monitor the trials;

(iv) has made public details of efforts to establish the location of Mr. Khashoggi’s remains and associated findings and returned his body to his family; and

(v) has made public the rationale for why ten of the individuals initially detained were later released without charge.

(H) The Government of Saudi Arabia has disbanded any units of its intelligence or security apparatus dedicated to the forced repatriation of dissidents in other countries.

(I) The Government of Saudi Arabia is cooperating with efforts to investigate the murder of Jamal Khashoggi being conducted by law enforcement authorities in the United States and Turkey, or by the United Nations.

(2) REPORT.—Accompanying the certification described in paragraph (1), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains a detailed description of Saudi Arabia’s adherence to the criteria described in the certification.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign person” has the meaning given such term in section 595.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act), except that such term does not include an entity (as such term is described in such section).

(4) FOREIGN PERSON WHO IS A-1 VISA ELIGIBLE.—The term “foreign person who is A-1 visa eligible” means an alien described in section 101(a)(15)(A)(i) of the Immigration

and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(A)(i)).

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON SAUDI ARABIA’S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in accordance with section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)), shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees report in writing that—

(1) includes the information required under paragraph (1) of such section 502B(c) with respect to Saudi Arabia;

(2) describes the extent to which officials of the Government of Saudi Arabia, including members of the military or security services, are responsible for or complicit in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including violations of the human rights of journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders, and those who support women’s rights or religious freedom;

(3) describes violations of human rights in Saudi Arabia by officials of the Government of Saudi Arabia, including against journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders, and civil society activists;

(4) describes United States actions to address Saudi violations of human rights, including against journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders, and civil society activists, including demands for clemency review of these cases;

(5) describes any intolerant content in educational materials published by Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Education that are used in schools both inside Saudi Arabia and at schools throughout the world; and

(6) describes United States actions to encourage Saudi Arabia to retrieve and destroy materials with intolerant material and revise teacher manuals and retrain teachers to reflect changes in educational materials and promote tolerance.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In the section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2037.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report the Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability Act of 2019.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) for his leadership, his thoughtfulness, and his vision in authoring this legislation. Mr. MALINOWSKI came to this body with a long track record of fighting for human rights, and he arrived ready to tackle one of the thorniest issues: How do we ensure justice for those responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi? How do we demand accountability when the President refuses?

Jamal Khashoggi was a Washington Post contributing columnist and legal permanent U.S. resident. He was killed by Saudi Government personnel on October 2, 2018, during his visit to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

Circumstances surrounding his disappearance and death have been extensively reported on by media outlets, briefed to some Members in classified settings, and investigated by the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings.

We still haven't seen any real accountability for this heinous crime. The Saudis originally denied any involvement and then made the outlandish claim that this killing was an accident—yes, accidental killing by bone saw. Give me a break.

The Trump administration said it would hold those responsible to account, but they have been dragging their feet. We still haven't seen any real action, so Congress must step in.

This important legislation mandates a report from the Director of National Intelligence about those who were responsible for, complicit in, or played a supporting role in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. The legislation then imposes a visa ban on those individuals.

This bill, though, has a thoughtful off-ramp. In an effort to reshape our relationship with Saudi Arabia, which is a very important U.S. partner, the legislation says that if Saudi Arabia releases the journalists and activists currently imprisoned in the kingdom, fully cooperates in the investigation of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, and reforms its systems to value human rights, those visa bans will not be imposed.

If Saudi Arabia is looking for a way to reset the U.S.-Saudi relationship, I invite them to look at this legislation. I hope they do.

The Saudis are an important security partner, but we cannot just look the

other way when they ignore international norms and basic human rights and when they murder a journalist in broad daylight in a diplomatic facility.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2019.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 2037, the Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability act of 2019.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. I acknowledge that the Committee will not formally consider H.R. 2037 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in H.R. 2037 which fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 2037, the "Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability Act of 2019" that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to waive sequential referral, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

Hon. ADAM SCHIFF,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 2037, the Saudi Arabia

Human Rights and Accountability act of 2019.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I acknowledge that the Committee will not formally consider H.R. 2037 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in H.R. 2037 which fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PER-
MANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON IN-
TELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 2037, the Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability Act of 2019. Certain provisions in the legislation fall within the jurisdiction of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as set forth in Rule X of the House of Representatives for the 116th Congress.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. By waiving consideration of H.R. 2037, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subjects contained in the bill which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I further request that you urge the Speaker to appoint members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to any conference committee which is named to consider provisions addressing such subjects.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 2037 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2037, the Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability Act.

The killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a prominent Saudi journalist and former diplomatic adviser, was a hideous and gruesome crime. The United States must ensure that everyone involved in this appalling human rights violation must be identified and held accountable.

Intimidation and violence by any government against peaceful dissent must be met with strong disapproval by responsible nations. If we do not respond forcefully to this brutal attack,

we invite future violations of international norms. Peaceful dissidents all over the world are watching us, waiting to see if we will stand up for their cause.

That is why I am grateful to support H.R. 2037, which requires a report to identify those responsible for this heinous assault and blocks visas for those directly involved with this murder. We cannot have business as usual with those who carried out an extrajudicial murder in cold blood. They should not get to come to the United States and pretend like nothing happened.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their commitment to ensuring that Jamal is not forgotten. He deserves justice, and his family deserves justice.

I thank the chairman and Mr. MALINOWSKI for working to ensure that even as we press for accountability, we can continue diplomatic engagements with our partner of Saudi Arabia. These diplomatic engagements are crucial in pushing for human rights improvements mutually beneficial to our Saudi allies, such as the release of wrongfully detained Americans and other matters.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI), who is the author of this bill and a valued member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his leadership on this issue. I also want to recognize Ranking Member MCCAUL and all my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee for working with me to ensure that we could move forward with this bill in a bipartisan way.

All of us agree that our relationship with Saudi Arabia is important, but we equally agree that how the Saudi Government treats its people and the people of other countries is important.

□ 1600

We have known this for a long time, I think, but last year's murder of Jamal Khashoggi by the Saudi Government makes it especially important that we take meaningful action in defense of our interest and our values.

When I was campaigning for Congress last year in New Jersey, foreign policy issues did not come up very often, and yet the murder of Jamal Khashoggi somehow broke through the noise. I was asked about it a lot.

I think this is because people understand that, while human rights violations in countries like Saudi Arabia are all too common, what happened to Khashoggi was not common. He was not killed, after all, inside Saudi Arabia. He was a resident of the United States. And yet the Saudi Government lured him into one of their embassies on the soil of a NATO country, where they brutally slaughtered him.

Many governments around the world abuse their people. Very few govern-

ments reach out beyond their borders to kidnap or kill people living in other countries. Russia has done it; Iran has reportedly done it.

But this kind of crime is very rare. It is profoundly in our interest to keep it rare, and that is why it is essential that we name and hold accountable those who are responsible for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi.

We need to do this not because what the Saudi Government did was wrong, but because it crossed a line that no partner of the United States should ever be allowed to cross—not just because it showed a lack of respect for human rights, but because it demonstrated a lack of respect for the United States.

Let's remember that there are thousands of Jamal Khashoggis living in America today. Men and women who have taken refuge in our country from dictatorships around the world and who sometimes speak up about injustices in their countries of origin.

If the Saudi Government gets away with what it did to a resident of the United States, what is to stop China or Russia or Cuba or Iran or North Korea or Venezuela or any other dictatorship from doing the same.

We know it is not their scruples that hold them back. The only thing that stops them is their fear of the consequences if they do this to somebody living in our country or to an American abroad. That is why there have to be consequences.

Our bill ensures that there will be. It requires the Director of National Intelligence to give us a list of everyone—without exception—whom the intelligence community believes to be responsible for planning, executing, or covering up this terrible crime. All on this list will be subject to a visa ban. The sanctions can only be lifted if the Saudi Government takes meaningful steps to reform human rights conditions in the kingdom.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that, while the Saudi Government has faced a lot of rhetorical condemnation for what they did to Jamal Khashoggi, it has not yet gotten the message. We know that the FBI has visited at least four Saudi dissidents living in the United States since Khashoggi's murder to warn them about the threats to their life from Saudi Arabia, including as recently as 6 weeks ago.

The Saudis also continue to imprison American citizens without trial or charge, despite repeated requests from the Trump administration for their release. While I appreciate that the State Department has sanctioned several Saudis for their involvement in Khashoggi's murder, this action also risks sending the wrong message.

By only sanctioning the rogues, whom the Saudis themselves are willing to throw under the bus for this crime, we risk reinforcing the Saudi Crown Prince's lie that the murder of Khashoggi was a rogue operation.

The relationship with Saudi Arabia is important, but it is not so important

that we have to lie for the Saudis or allow them, literally, to get away with murder. No relationship and no individual is so important that we need to debase ourselves in that way.

Now is the time to send the message, especially now, before Mohammad bin Salman ascends to the Saudi throne, that this is wrong.

Now is the time to make clear that reckless behavior, whether the murder of an American resident or the kidnapping of the Lebanese Prime Minister or the blockade of Qatar, carries a price, that the men who rule Saudi Arabia, who, after all, depend far more on us than we depend on them, need to take our interests and values into account rather than always counting on us to cover up for them.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to, once again, thank Chairman ENGEL and the Committee on Foreign Affairs' membership for their bipartisan work to respond to the terrible injustice of Jamal Khashoggi's murder.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Representative MALINOWSKI for bringing this forward.

Again, I have long expressed concern about the cozy relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia across a number of Presidencies, both Democrat and Republican. For years, we have turned a blind eye toward their human rights abuses at home, their repression of women, and their export of radical Wahhabism, destabilizing the Middle East, Pakistan, and, now, up into the Balkans.

It is long past time for the United States to take action, but Trump has taken the U.S. blind eye toward Saudi abuses to a new extreme. He and Pompeo have cozied up to Mohammad bin Salman, who was, according to U.S. intelligence agencies, European intelligence agencies, and, now, a report from the United States, involved in the brutal murder of a U.S. resident, a noted journalist because he had the temerity to write articles critical of His Highness MBS.

And what does Trump do? He goes to Saudi Arabia. He does the sword dance. He calls them up on the phone and cozies up to them day after day after day.

This legislation here in the House will help to begin to right the wrongs of the past, right the wrongs of this administration, and to send a strong message to the Saudis that what they are doing in Yemen is not acceptable, what they are doing throughout the Middle East and other parts of the world, exporting radical Wahhabism and destabilizing, murder is not acceptable. None of these things are acceptable.

The President wants to arm them. We need to disarm this relationship and hold them accountable.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the chairman of the Rules Committee and co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2037. I am very proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill, and I want to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI), my good friend and colleague, for his long commitment to human rights and his leadership on this issue. I also want to thank Chairman ENGEL for working to ensure that this bill came before the House for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 10 months since Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident, journalist for *The Washington Post*, and former general manager and editor-in-chief of *Al-Arab News Channel* entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, and was never, ever again seen. He was assassinated by agents of the Saudi Arabian Government. Despite having arrested some of its own security personnel for this crime, the Saudi Government continues to refuse to disclose the location of Khashoggi's remains.

In June, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions concluded that Khashoggi was "the victim of a deliberate, premeditated execution, an extrajudicial killing for which the State of Saudi Arabia is responsible."

She called the trial in Saudi Arabia of the 11 suspects to be suspended, saying it would "not deliver credible accountability."

"The trial is held behind closed doors. The identity of those charged has not been released nor is the identity of those facing the death penalty. At the time of writing, at least one of those identified as responsible for the planning and organizing of the execution of Mr. Khashoggi has not been charged," she noted.

She also found there was "credible evidence that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and other high-level officials were individually liable."

Not surprisingly, the Saudi Government, which denies the Prince was involved, has rejected the report. Meanwhile, despite all the international handwringing and denunciations, there has been little effective international response.

This bill requires an intelligent assessment on responsibility for Jamal Khashoggi's murder, and it would sanction those named by imposing Magnitsky-style sanctions against them.

It also requires the Secretary of State to provide Congress with a report on Saudi Arabia's human rights record,

which, personally, I find to be among the most egregious in the world.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S., Canada, France, and the U.K. all levied some level of sanctions against 18 Saudis allegedly linked to the killing. The Saudi Crown Prince is not among them. Germany, Finland, and Denmark have canceled arms deals with Saudi Arabia. The U.K. was also forced to cancel its armed sales to the Saudi Government, under court order.

The Senate and the House have voted to condemn Jamal Khashoggi's murder and to end U.S. armed sales to Saudi Arabia because of Saudi Arabia's role in the Yemen civil war.

President Trump has chosen to ignore the will of Congress, going so far as to invoke an imaginary emergency in order to continue selling arms to the Saudis. The Senate has voted to overturn those arms sales by passing resolutions of disapproval, which the House will consider later this week or next. I have introduced a bill in the House, H.R. 643, that would end U.S. arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Now is the time for the House to act strongly and definitely. There must be consequences for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Such a heinous crime must not be met with impunity. H.R. 2037 is an appropriate step in ensuring that those responsible are named and held accountable.

Again, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership and urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, the horrific murder of Jamal Khashoggi demands accountability and justice. After the astounding evidence we have seen, it just cannot be business as usual; and since the administration is dragging its feet, Congress must step forward.

So I urge my colleagues to join me today and support the Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability Act, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) for his leadership on this issue.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MALINOWSKI). 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. 2037, 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. ENGEL. 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.

CONDEMNING GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA'S CONTINUED DETENTION AND ALLEGED ABUSE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 129) condemning the Government of Saudi Arabia's continued detention and alleged abuse of women's rights activists, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 129

Whereas the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been an important strategic partner of the United States, and the United States and Saudi Arabia share broad interests, including defeating the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), regional stability, and countering Iran's malign activities in the Middle East;

Whereas, in June 2018, the Government of Saudi Arabia reversed the longstanding ban on women driving;

Whereas Saudi Arabia's male guardianship system requires women to attain the permission of their male guardian for a vast array of decisions, including health care, employment, applying for a passport, international travel, getting married, or even leaving prison;

Whereas, since May 2018, the Government of Saudi Arabia has arrested prominent human rights advocates and imposed travel bans on numerous others, many of them longtime supporters of ending the ban on women driving and abolishing the male guardianship system;

Whereas none of the jailed activists has been convicted of any crimes, and many reportedly have been held in solitary confinement for prolonged periods;

Whereas Aziza al-Yousef, a United States resident who helped lead a campaign against the male guardianship system in Saudi Arabia, was imprisoned in May 2018;

Whereas at least 10 activists supporting the rights of women have been subjected to psychological and physical abuse, including sexual violence, beatings, electric shocks, and sleep deprivation;

Whereas one of the detained activists, Loujain al-Hathloul, was reportedly beaten, waterboarded, given electric shocks, sexually harassed, and threatened with rape and murder;

Whereas the Department of State has undertaken some diplomatic measures to bring concerns about the detention of these activists to the attention of the Government of Saudi Arabia;

Whereas, on January 14, 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he had raised the case of the imprisoned activists with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman;

Whereas the 2018 Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Saudi Arabia stated that, "Women continued to face significant discrimination under law and custom, and many remained uninformed about their rights", and "women also faced discrimination in courts, where in most cases the testimony of one man equals that of two women";

Whereas in March and in May of 2019, Saudi authorities temporarily released several activists pending trial;

Whereas, on April 21, 2005, Dr. Hatoun al-Fassi, an associate professor of history at King Saud University and prominent activist who was detained and later temporarily released, pending trial, testified before Congress that a Saudi woman "is considered legally and socially a minor; she is confined to

limited areas of educational opportunities; she is restricted in employment opportunities; there are no legal bodies where women could seek support; and finally, she is distanced from any decisionmaking position”;

Whereas serious impediments to women's freedoms in Saudi Arabia remain, including a high prevalence of forced marriages, inequality in marriage, divorce, child custody and inheritance, laws that prevents women from directly transmitting citizenship to their children, and the male guardianship system; and

Whereas the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) authorizes the President to deny travel visas and freeze the United States-based assets of foreign government officials responsible for “extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms that promoting human rights and democracy has long been a bedrock of United States foreign policy, including advancing the rights and empowerment of women and girls;

(2) condemns the Government of Saudi Arabia's continued detention and alleged abuse of women's rights advocates jailed for peacefully exercising their human rights;

(3) urges Government of Saudi Arabia officials to immediately and unconditionally release the imprisoned women's rights advocates and other political prisoners, and hold accountable those involved in perpetrating abuses;

(4) urges Government of Saudi Arabia officials to end the male guardianship system that restricts the ability of Saudi women to make decisions about their lives; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to—

(A) continue publicly and privately demanding the release of individuals wrongfully detained;

(B) use the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) to identify and impose travel and financial restrictions on all Government of Saudi Arabia officials responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights;

(C) document relevant details of alleged torture and abuse in future annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; and

(D) prioritize human rights, including the rights of women, as a key component of the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) 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 in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 129.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives FRANKEL and WAGNER for their leadership in bringing this measure forward.

The treatment of women's rights activists in Saudi Arabia, their unjust imprisonment, is a serious problem.

Since May 2018, the Government of Saudi Arabia has arrested prominent women's rights activists and imposed travel bans on numerous others. Many of them are longtime supporters of ending the ban on a woman driving and abolishing the male guardianship system.

At least 10 women's rights activists have been subjected to psychological and physical abuse, including sexual violence, beatings, electric shocks, and sleep deprivation.

The State Department reported, in 2018: “Women continued to face significant discrimination under law and custom, and many remain uninformed about their rights,” and “women also face discrimination in courts where, in the most cases, the testimony of one man equals that of two women.”

Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia temporarily released four women activists. This is a step in the right direction, but not nearly enough.

Mr. Speaker, American foreign policy is at its best when we put our values at the center of everything we do, and when a partner country like Saudi Arabia tramples on human rights, it is incumbent on us to speak out just as we would do with respect to a nation hostile to the United States.

With this resolution, we are sending a clear message. It condemns the Government of Saudi Arabia's continued detention of these activists. It also urges an end to the male guardianship system and calls on the United States Government to designate the perpetrators of serious human rights violations under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

We must continue to call on the Saudi Government to release these women immediately. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 129, Condemning the Government of Saudi Arabia's Continued Detention and Alleged Abuse of Women's Rights Activists.

Last year, we were all heartened by the news that Saudi Arabia was planning to lift its longstanding ban on women driving. We hoped that this would be a sign that the kingdom would finally shed its notoriously harsh policies toward women, such as the guardianship system under which women cannot make decisions without the permission of a male relative.

Tragically, we were mistaken. The kingdom has detained and reportedly tortured several of the activists who had long campaigned for more rights for women, including the right to drive. While some of these activists

have been temporarily released, they continue to face trial for their peaceful protests.

This resolution calls on Saudi Arabia to release these peaceful activists and to hold accountable those who tortured them. It also calls on Saudi Arabia to end the guardianship system.

We welcomed reports from the past week that Saudi Arabia may loosen a few select restrictions within the guardianship system, but it is far past time for women in Saudi Arabia to make their own decisions about their lives.

The United States has a responsibility to advocate for human rights all over the world, including the right for peaceful dissent.

While we value our strategic partnership and alliance with Saudi Arabia, our partnership does not let the kingdom off the hook for abuses of fundamental human rights.

Today, the United States House of Representatives calls on Saudi Arabia to do better, to treat its women as citizens with full and equal rights, and to release and exonerate the peaceful dissidents who have long campaigned for human rights, including the rights of women.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Chairman ENGEL, Representative FRANKEL, Representative WAGNER, and the Foreign Affairs Committee members for their bipartisan work to advocate on behalf of the women of Saudi Arabia, including human rights activists.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank my colleagues for their hard work on this measure, and let me thank Mr. WILSON for his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, when we see abuses of human rights around the world, when we see women treated as second-class citizens and denied basic dignity, we need to speak out. We need to speak out whether it is an adversary or friend. That is what is demanded of American leadership. It is what sets us apart from other powers on the global stage.

The treatment of women in Saudi Arabia is abhorrent. The jailing of activists is unacceptable. And it is one more roadblock in our relationship with a country that has been and should continue to be an important partner.

I hope it changes soon, along with a lot of other things, so that we can get back on track.

Mr. Speaker, I support the measure, I urge all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 129, 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.

RESCUING ANIMALS WITH REWARDS ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 97) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for thwarting wildlife trafficking linked to transnational organized crime, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 97

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 “Rescuing Animals With Rewards Act of 2019” or the “RAWR Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Wildlife trafficking is a major transnational crime that is estimated to generate over \$10 billion a year in illegal profits and which is increasingly perpetrated by organized, sophisticated criminal enterprises, including known terrorist organizations.

(2) Wildlife trafficking not only threatens endangered species worldwide, but also jeopardizes local security, spreads disease, undermines rule of law, fuels corruption, and damages economic development.

(3) Combating wildlife trafficking requires a coordinated and sustained approach at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

(4) Congress stated in the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 that it is the policy of the United States to take immediate actions to stop the illegal global trade in wildlife and wildlife products and associated transnational organized crime.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of State’s rewards program is a powerful tool in combating sophisticated international crime and that the Department of State and Federal law enforcement should work in concert to offer rewards that target wildlife traffickers.

SEC. 3. REWARDS FOR JUSTICE.

Subparagraph (B) of section 36(k)(5) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(5)) is amended by inserting “wildlife trafficking (as defined by section 2(12) of the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C. 7601(12); Public Law 114-231)) and” after “includes”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) 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 may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 97, Rescuing Animals With Rewards Act.

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 such time as I may consume, and rise in support of H.R. 97.

I would like to begin by thanking Mr. BUCHANAN and Ms. TITUS for introducing this important legislation.

In recent years, Congress has taken a number of important steps to combat wildlife trafficking, but the situation remains dire.

Over the last 10 years, one-third of African elephants have been slaughtered for their tusks—one-third. That is just shocking.

Rhino populations have also been decimated, and many other species are at risk.

Protecting wildlife is the right thing to do, but it also serves American national security interests. Wildlife trafficking feeds corruption, undermines the rule of law, threatens economic prosperity, and drives instability. And it is carried out by many of the same international criminal syndicates engaged in the trafficking of drugs, weapons, and people.

The bipartisan, commonsense legislation before us today provides our government with a tool it can use to tackle the illegal trade in wildlife. Specifically, it authorizes rewards, under the State Department’s Rewards for Justice Program, for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those engaged in wildlife trafficking.

This can provide a powerful financial incentive for people to turn in those responsible for this appalling activity.

Where I come from—Bronx, New York—we have the Wildlife Conservation Society doing such wonderful work. It is the Bronx Zoo. They are really doing great work in terms of this. And John Calvelli, a personal friend of mine, is at the forefront of trying to save animals and allowing people to understand what is going on in wildlife trafficking. It is very important, and I commend them for their role.

This authorizes rewards, under the State Department’s Rewards for Justice Program, for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those engaged in wildlife trafficking. This can provide a powerful financial incentive for people to turn in those responsible for this appalling activity.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to prioritize the targeting of wildlife traffickers as part of the Department of State’s Rewards for Justice Program.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) for leading this important bill and also Chairman ENGEL for bringing this bill to the floor.

This legislation would give explicit authority to offer financial rewards for information pertaining to the capture or conviction of high-profile wildlife traffickers around the world. This is a powerful tool for Federal law enforcement to target those who engage in wildlife trafficking.

Illicit wildlife trade is a multibillion-dollar industry. This funds terrorists and criminal networks around the world, destabilizing countries and stripping communities of valuable economic resources.

We know that the criminals that poach and then traffic wildlife products are the same people and networks that traffic weapons, drugs, and people.

Our ability to crack down on illicit funding streams for criminal and terrorist networks is critical to U.S. national security interests in the global war on terrorism.

We must ensure that the State Department and our law enforcement personnel have the tools they need to combat this horrible trade.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to, once again, urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this good, bipartisan bill to combat wildlife trafficking, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Cox of California). 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. 97.

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.

CAMBODIA DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2019

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 526) to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 526

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 “Cambodia Democracy Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Prime Minister Hun Sen has been in power in Cambodia since 1985 and is the longest-serving leader in Southeast Asia. Despite decades of international attention and assistance to promote a pluralistic, multi-party democratic system in Cambodia, the Government of Cambodia continues to be

undemocratically dominated by the ruling Cambodia People's Party (CPP), which controls every agency and security apparatus of the state.

(2) In 2015, the CPP-controlled parliament passed the "Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations", which gave the government sweeping powers to revoke the registration of NGOs that the government believed to be operating with a political bias in a blatant attempt to restrict the legitimate work of civil society. On August 23, 2017, Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs ordered the closure of the National Democratic Institute and the expulsion of its foreign staff. On September 15, 2017, Prime Minister Hun Sen called for the withdrawal of all volunteers from the United States Peace Corps, which has operated in Cambodia since 2006 with 500 United States volunteers providing English language and healthcare training.

(3) The Government of Cambodia has taken several measures to restrict its media environment, especially through politicized tax investigations against independent media outlets that resulted in the closure of The Cambodian Daily and Radio Free Asia in early September 2017. Additionally, the Government of Cambodia has ordered several radio stations to stop the broadcasting of Radio Free Asia and Voice of America programming.

(4) On September 3, 2017, Kem Sokha, the President of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), was arrested on politically motivated charges, including treason and conspiring to overthrow the Government of Cambodia, and faces up to 30 years in prison. The CNRP's previous leader, Sam Rainsy, remains in exile. On November 16, 2017, Cambodia's Supreme Court dissolved the CNRP, eliminating the primary opposition party.

(5) Each of the six elections that have taken place in Cambodia since 1991 were conducted in circumstances that were not free and fair, and were marked by fraud, intimidation, violence, and the government's misuse of legal mechanisms to weaken opposition candidates and parties.

(6) In the most recent general election in July 2018, following the dissolution of the CNRP, the CPP secured every parliamentary seat, an electoral victory that a statement from the White House Press Secretary stated was "neither free nor fair and failed to represent the will of the Cambodian people".

(7) The United States is committed to promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Cambodia. The United States continues to urge the Government of Cambodia to immediately release Mr. Kem Sokha, reinstate the political status of the CNRP and restore its elected seats in the National Assembly, and support electoral reform efforts in Cambodia with free and fair elections monitored by international observers.

SEC. 3. SANCTIONS RELATING TO UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA.

(a) DESIGNATION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERMINING DEMOCRACY IN CAMBODIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate and transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of—

(A) each senior official of the government, military, or security forces of Cambodia who the President determines has directly and substantially undermined democracy in Cambodia;

(B) each senior official of the government, military, or security forces of Cambodia who the President determines has committed or directed serious human rights violations associated with undermining democracy in Cambodia; and

(C) entities owned or controlled by senior officials of the government, military, or security forces of Cambodia described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) on each foreign person designated pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) UPDATES.—The President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees updated lists under paragraph (1) as new information becomes available.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person designated under subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) INADMISSIBILITY OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

(A) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—A foreign person designated under subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A foreign person designated under subsection (a) is subject to the following:

(i) Revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the foreign person's possession.

(C) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under this paragraph shall not apply with respect to a foreign person if admitting or paroling the person into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a foreign person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of paragraph (1) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(d) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a person designated under subsection (a) if the President determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

(e) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "good" means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

SEC. 4. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) SUSPENSION.—The sanctions described in section 3 may be suspended for up to 1-year upon certification by the President to the appropriate congressional committees that Cambodia is making meaningful progress toward the following:

(1) Ending government efforts to undermine democracy.

(2) Ending human rights violations associated with undermining democracy.

(3) Conducting free and fair elections which allow for the active participation of credible opposition candidates.

(b) RENEWAL OF SUSPENSION.—The suspension described in subsection (a) may be renewed for additional, consecutive-day periods if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Cambodia is continuing to make meaningful progress towards satisfying the conditions described in such subsection during the previous year.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) PERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "person" means—

(i) a natural person; or

(ii) a corporation, business association, partnership, society, trust, financial institution, insurer, underwriter, guarantor, and any other business organization, any other nongovernmental entity, organization, or group, and any governmental entity operating as a business enterprise or any successor to any entity described in this clause.

(B) APPLICATION TO GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—The term "person" does not include a government or governmental entity that is not operating as a business enterprise.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term "United States person" means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction of the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) 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 may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 526.

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 such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for his hard work on this measure.

This is an example of what our committee does best: good, bipartisan legislation aimed at advancing American interests and leadership and, especially in this case, our values—our support for human rights around the world. So, I thank Mr. YOHO for this.

Hun Sen, Cambodia's strongman Prime Minister, has been in power since 1985. He has clung to power longer than any other current leader in southeast Asia. He has violently suppressed dissent. He intimidates any opposition.

Civil society cannot operate freely. His government restricts free speech and free media, the bedrocks of any democracy.

For 30 years, the Cambodian people have hoped to see their country move toward a freer, more democratic system. Democracies around the world have hoped for the same thing, investing for decades in the hopes of building a pluralistic, multiparty system in Cambodia.

Progress has been halting at best, and results are woefully incomplete. Six elections have been held in Cambodia since 1991. None of them was free or fair.

But we won't give up on the Cambodian people. This legislation gives the President and State Department more tools to sanction Cambodian leaders who undermine democracy and commit gross human rights violations.

This bill would prohibit those individuals from entering the United States and block any assets or property they may possess in our country.

This bill sends a clear message that the United States stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Cambodia and that Congress will hold Cambodia's leaders accountable for their assault on democracy and violations of human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to cosponsor this bill. I am glad we are moving it forward today. I thank Mr. WILSON, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Committee on the Judiciary has now had an opportunity to review the provisions in H.R. 526, the "Cambodia Democracy Act of 2019" that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate your consulting with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee has no objection to your including them in the bill for consideration on the House floor, and to expedite that consideration is willing to waive sequential referral, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over those provisions or their subject matters.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Judiciary Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with these or similar provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2019.

Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 526, the Cambodia Democracy Act of 2019.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. I acknowledge that the Committee will not formally consider H.R. 526 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in H.R. 526 which fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Cambodia Democracy Act introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), and I would note that I happen to be the co-chair of the Congressional Cambodian Caucus, along with the gentleman from California, ALAN LOWENTHAL. He and I, a Republican and a Democrat, have worked on this particular issue for many years now.

So, I certainly thank the committee for moving forward with this very good and helpful piece of legislation.

The people of Cambodia have been living under the iron-fisted rule of Hun

Sen, as the chairman mentioned, for, literally, decades. Under his reign, he has denied Cambodians almost all of their political rights and prevented free and fair elections from taking place.

In recent years, Hun Sen has resorted to violence and attacked peaceful protesters many times. He has undermined any sense of democracy by dismantling the country's only viable opposition party.

The work of NGOs has also been dramatically limited, and critical media outlets have been virtually shut down.

Like many other dictators, he fears the day when he will no longer be in power.

□ 1630

As the beacon of hope and freedom to the rest of the world, a key pillar of our foreign policy must be to support the expansion of democracy in other countries. That is why I am very, very proud to support and cosponsor the Cambodian Democracy Act.

This bill pushes back on Hun Sen's regime by applying asset-blocking sanctions on any government officials or security forces who undermine the democratic process or take part in human rights abuses. This legislation also codifies visa restrictions for these individuals.

This is a strong, bipartisan bill that will allow us to show our support for the people of Cambodia and their desire for democratic governance. Members of both parties should support this important piece of legislation. I would fully expect them to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman YOHO; I want to thank Mr. ENGEL and Mr. MCCAUL as well, for introducing this bill, and for all of their work on behalf of the Cambodian people. I certainly appreciate their support on this.

Supporting democracy abroad is very important, really a critical endeavor. The world will be a more peaceful and prosperous place with the expansion of free markets and free people.

I would urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CHABOT, for doing this with me. Last time I saw him was a few days ago in my home city of New York. We were going to meet the president of Taiwan, another Asian country that has great freedom.

Mr. CHABOT. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am glad that we were there Friday night and not Saturday night. I know you had some electrical difficulties in the city the following evening. I am glad we weren't there then.

Mr. ENGEL. Well, I would say to the gentleman, if it happened on the other night, I would have invited him to my house for a drink, but we will have to do that another time.

Mr. Speaker, supporting democracy and human rights around the world is an area where our values and our interests clearly intersect.

Basic freedoms: Accountable, transparent governments, respect for individual dignity, these are the values we seek to promote around the world and the values that underpin a vibrant democracy.

They are also what makes countries stronger, better and more stable partners for the United States on the world stage. That is good for our interests and our security as well.

So we want to keep supporting the people of Cambodia, we want them to have a say in the future of their country. That starts by demanding accountability for those who have suppressed democracy and basic freedoms. This bill is an important step in that process. I am glad to support it. I urge all Members to do the same.

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 New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 526, 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.

ACCESS TO SUFFICIENT CAPITAL FOR EVERYONE IN NATURAL DISASTER AREAS ACT OF 2019

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 277) to adjust collateral requirements under the Small Business Act for disaster loans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 277

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 “Access to Sufficient Capital for Everyone in Natural Disaster areas Act of 2019” or the “ASCEND Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISASTER LOANS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT.

(a) AMENDMENT TO THE RISE AFTER DISASTER ACT OF 2015.—Section 2102 of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-88) is amended—

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

(2) by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as though enacted as part of the RISE After Disaster Act of 2015.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 277, the Access to Sufficient Capital for Everyone in Natural Disaster Areas Act, also called the ASCEND Act.

However, before we get to the substance of the bill, I want to thank the ranking member, Ranking Member CHABOT, and his staff, for working in a bipartisan way on this package of bills.

I also would like to thank all our Members, both Republican and Democrat, for their hard work and continued bipartisan commitment to putting small businesses first. It is, once again, a reminder of the importance of working across the aisle and getting things done for the American people.

Being the only committee dedicated solely to the needs of small firms, we remain committed on working to promote policies that will encourage economic prosperity on Main Street.

Access to capital is essential for business success, and it is particularly true after a natural disaster. That is why I rise in support of H.R. 277, the ASCEND Act, which will permanently set the unsecured credit threshold for SBA's disaster loans at \$25,000.

The SBA's Disaster Assistance program was implemented to provide timely financial assistance in the form of low-interest loans and working capital for businesses and homeowners devastated by a disaster.

Continual improvement and modernization of the program has been a priority of our committee for many years. And as we continue to experience increased disasters, both in frequency and strength, it is imperative Congress provides the necessary policies to get communities back on their feet.

One of those policies originated in the 114th Congress as part of a bill introduced by Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, H.R. 208, the Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015, the RISE Act. That law raised the collateralization threshold on disaster loans to make it easier for victims to obtain capital to rebuild their homes and businesses. Unfortunately, this provision will expire this year, so Congress must act.

H.R. 277 permanently raises the minimum disaster loan amount that the SBA may require collateral from \$14,000 to \$25,000. This means that a dis-

aster victim can continue to receive a \$25,000 loan, rather than just \$14,000, within 5 days of closing to speed up the reconstruction project.

Raising the unsecured loan amount provides support for Americans when they need it most. And for smaller businesses, time and again, we have seen that in the aftermath of a disaster, access to affordable credit can make the difference between remaining in business or closing their doors and putting Americans out of work.

Without this legislation, the unsecured loan limit for agency declarations will revert to the lower limits and create an unfair discrepancy for disaster survivors in areas of an SBA declaration and that of a major disaster declaration.

I thank Ranking Member CHABOT for cosponsoring this legislation, which allows more borrowers to access loans without having to put up collateral. I urge Members to support this bipartisan piece of legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 277, the Access to Sufficient Capital for Everyone in Natural Disaster Areas Act of 2019, as also known as the ASCEND Act.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York, as well as the chairwoman of the committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for their bipartisan cooperation on the committee. It is probably one of the most, if not the most, bipartisan committee in Congress. We really do work together on behalf of small business; so I would like to thank the gentleman and, as always, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

When natural disasters strike the Nation, the U.S. SBA, the Small Business Administration, leads the government's long-term recovery efforts through its Disaster Loan Program. This program, which offers low-interest and fixed-rate financing to individuals and businesses, helps communities and neighborhoods as they recover and rebuild.

To assist disaster victims quickly and efficiently, the SBA offers an initial unsecured loan disbursement of \$25,000 to qualified victims. However, after November, that was going to drop to 14,000, and this reduced loan level would conflict with the disbursement levels attributed to all other declared disasters.

Immediately after a catastrophe, and when victims need help the most, loan levels across the SBA's Disaster Loan Program should be clear and consistent. So H.R. 277, this bill, codifies the \$25,000 unsecured loan limit for Physical Damage Loans under an SBA Agency disaster declaration.

I would, again, like to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their cooperation in attaining this effort, and I urge my colleagues to support the ASCEND Act.

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This commonsense legislation passed out of our committee unanimously and will allow the SBA to be nimbler and more responsive to survivors of a natural disaster, so I would urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There is little doubt that natural disasters result in economic hardship for the people living in those communities. And no matter the scope or the cause of a disaster, the first few weeks are critical to a small firm's recovery.

H.R. 277 seeks to provide that lifeline by permanently increasing the collateralization threshold to \$25,000 and giving peace of mind to disaster victims. This legislation is a much-needed response to the record-breaking disasters of the past 2 years, the impacts of which are still being felt in various parts of the country.

It is a commonsense move, and one supported by the Small Business Administration. In a report assessing the SBA Disaster Loan Program, the SBA recommended that an increase in the unsecured loan limit for disaster loans should be made permanent.

The agency, again, stated as much in congressional testimony at a hearing held last September before our committee and in its fiscal year 2020 budget and legislative proposals.

Again, I thank Ranking Member CHABOT for his support, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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 New York (Mr. DELGADO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 277, 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.

REQUIRING SMALL BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT OMBUDSMAN TO CREATE A CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR COMPLIANCE GUIDES

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2142) to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2142

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR COMPLIANCE GUIDES.

Section 30 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(e) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Ombudsman shall maintain a publicly available website that includes—

“(1) hyperlinks to small entity compliance guides described under section 212(a)(1) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996; and

“(2) with respect to each such small entity compliance guide, the contact information for an individual who can offer assistance to small entities with respect to the rules that are the subject of such guide.

“(f) REPORT ON AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—The Ombudsman shall include in the annual report required under subsection (b)(2)(C) an assessment of agency compliance with the requirements of section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 for the year covered by such annual report.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 2142, which eases regulatory compliance for small businesses.

Agencies are required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act to publish small entity compliance guides for each rule requiring a regulatory flexibility analysis. That guide is supposed to be posted and accessible to the public no later than the day a rulemaking becomes effective.

Yet, our committee continually hears from small business owners that they have great difficulty locating the guides. In our own investigation, we found that Federal agencies are inconsistent in their compliance with this rule.

Small businesses don't always have the resources to navigate multiple agency websites to understand their responsibilities under new laws. Instead, they are worried about meeting payroll, hiring talented workers, and running day-to-day operations of their small firms.

□ 1645

This bill provides a centralized location at the SBA's Office of the National

Ombudsman to make it easier for business owners to find agency regulatory compliance guides and contact information. The SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman was created to help the small business community overcome regulatory barriers and ensure that agency actions are fair and reasonable. Centralizing various agency compliance guides in this office is a logical step to provide transparency and clarity for small businesses.

I want to thank Dr. JOYCE for working with me to identify this issue and find a bipartisan solution to ensure America's small firms have a one-stop shop for regulatory assistance.

I ask my fellow Members to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2142. This legislation offered by committee members Mr. DELGADO of New York and Dr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania make important changes to the SBA Office of the National Ombudsman that will make it easier for small businesses to comply with Federal regulations.

Congress established the Office of the National Ombudsman in 1996 to assist small businesses, small government entities, and small nonprofits when they are subject to excessive enforcement by a Federal agency. Excessive enforcement may include repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines, penalties, threats, retaliation, or other unfair enforcement action.

This simple and commonsense bill would require the ombudsman to create a public website to provide the compliance guides required by section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act, or SBREFA. Mr. Speaker, these compliance guides help small firms better understand how to comply with the most onerous Federal regulations. Housing them at one spot on the ombudsman's website is an easy way to save a small business a significant amount of time.

It is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), the ranking member of our Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship Subcommittee.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2142. H.R. 2142 is a commonsense bill to ease the burden that Federal regulations place on small businesses.

As a small business owner myself, I can personally attest to the daunting feelings that are associated with new regulations. Navigating the bureaucracy of the Federal Government can be

incredibly intimidating, and I want to thank my colleague, Mr. DELGADO, for his leadership on this issue.

Small businesses account for 99.6 percent of the businesses in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These businesses are truly the backbone of the American economy, which is why I was proud to introduce this legislation with my colleague from New York. This legislation takes a simple, yet important, step to reduce the strain that the Federal regulations place on small businesses and provide much-needed transparency.

Any time a Federal agency is required to produce a final regulatory flexibility analysis on a rule, the agency is also required by section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act to publish one or more guides to assist small entities in complying with the rule.

This legislation makes already available information more easily accessible to small businesses by requiring the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a public website to publish these compliance guides and list contact information for persons who can help small entities comply with these rules. Making this information publicly available on a centralized website is a commonsense way to ease the regulatory burden on small firms that are looking for assistance to comply with the Federal regulations.

I again would like to thank Mr. DELGADO for bringing this issue to my attention and the chairwoman and Ranking Member CHABOT from Ohio for their commitment to advancing this bipartisan solution.

I ask each of my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, this is yet another example of how our committee continues to work across the aisle for the benefit of America's small businesses. We do it in a bipartisan manner, and I want to thank Mr. DELGADO and the doctor, as well, for their leadership on this.

I urge the bill's adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, we know that small business owners don't necessarily have the resources and time to navigate multiple websites to fully understand their responsibilities with Federal laws. My bill is an important step toward reversing these problems. H.R. 2142 will make it easier, not harder, to comply with Federal regulations by providing them one location for compliance assistance.

The ombudsman already maintains a site for guidance, but this bill goes one step further by requiring that they not just provide agency contacts, but also keep a regular, updated page of compliance guides readily accessible to the public. My legislation renews our commitment towards small business growth and success by creating transparency and accountability of Federal agencies.

Again, I want to thank Dr. JOYCE for cosponsoring this bill and putting our small businesses first.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2142.

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.

SBA CYBER AWARENESS ACT

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2331) to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2331

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 "SBA Cyber Awareness Act".

SEC. 2. CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS REPORTING.

Section 10 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 639) is amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) CYBERSECURITY REPORTS.—

"(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

"(A) an assessment of the information technology (as defined in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code) and cybersecurity infrastructure of the Administration;

"(B) a strategy to increase the cybersecurity infrastructure of the Administration;

"(C) a detailed account of any information technology equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment of the Administration that was manufactured by an entity that has its principal place of business located in the People's Republic of China; and

"(D) an account of any cybersecurity risk or incident that occurred at the Administration during the 2-year period preceding the date on which the report is submitted, and any action taken by the Administrator to respond to or remediate any such cybersecurity risk or incident.

"(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—If the Administrator determines that there is a reasonable basis to conclude that a cybersecurity risk or incident occurred at the Administration, the Administrator shall—

"(A) not later than 7 days after the date on which the Administrator makes that determination, notify the appropriate congressional committees of the cybersecurity risk or incident; and

"(B) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator makes a determination under subparagraph (A)—

"(i) provide notice to individuals and small business concerns affected by the cybersecurity risk or incident; and

"(ii) submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, based on information available to the Administrator as of the date which the Administrator submits the report, that includes—

"(I) a summary of information about the cybersecurity risk or incident, including how the cybersecurity risk or incident occurred; and

"(II) an estimate of the number of individuals and small business concerns affected by the cybersecurity risk or incident, including an assessment of the risk of harm to affected individuals and small business concerns.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect the reporting requirements of the Administrator under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, in particular the requirement to notify the Federal information security incident center under section 3554(b)(7)(C)(ii) of such title, or any other provision of law.

"(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

"(i) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

"(ii) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

"(B) CYBERSECURITY RISK; INCIDENT.—The terms 'cybersecurity risk' and 'incident' have the meanings given such terms, respectively, under section 2209(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 2331, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act of 2019, which strengthens the Small Business Administration's cybersecurity infrastructure to handle and report cyber threats that affect small businesses.

The Small Business Administration processes a significant amount of small business data, and protecting these businesses is essential to its mission. That is why they must protect its precious digital networks from cyberattacks. But after the massive data breach at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 75 percent of Americans are doubtful that the government can protect their personal information.

With 28 million small business owners in the U.S. that provide 64 percent of new private-sector jobs, America cannot afford for small businesses to lose faith in the SBA. Today, we take an important step to restore American confidence in the SBA's cybersecurity protections and prevent the harmful results of cyberattacks.

H.R. 2331 ensures that the SBA has an effective cyber strategy and requires timely reporting of cyber incidents to Congress and affected individuals. Through these measures, the SBA will better serve the American small businesses that support the U.S. economy.

I thank Congressman CROW and Congressman BALDERSON for working so diligently to strengthen the agency we oversee and protect the Nation's small business community that utilizes its services.

I ask my fellow Members to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2331, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act.

In June 2015, the Office of Personnel Management, or OPM, discovered that background investigation records of current, former, and prospective Federal employees and contractors had been stolen from their system. That data breach affected 21.5 million individuals. Earlier in 2015, OPM discovered that the personal data of 4.2 million current and former Federal Government employees had also been stolen. This is absolutely unacceptable, and we must hold agencies accountable to secure their networks.

While a much smaller agency, the SBA maintains important and sensitive data about loan recipients, government contractor information, and various other forms of personally identifiable information that hackers covet. That is why I am happy to support Mr. CROW's and Mr. BALDERSON's legislation, H.R. 2331, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act. This legislation mirrors legislation introduced in the last Congress by Senators RUBIO and CARDIN.

The bill directs the SBA to issue reports that assess its cybersecurity infrastructure, including determining the country of origin of its IT components, and report cyber threats, breaches, and cyberattacks.

This is a commonsense, bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) for yielding, and I want to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for prioritizing this critical issue and bringing our bill to the floor. I also want to thank my friend and colead on H.R. 2331, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), for his leadership on cybersecurity and small business issues and this bill in particular. I value his input and expertise on all of these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation I intro-

duced with Ranking Member BALDERSON, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act.

The Small Business Administration houses vital information for small business owners and lenders. We must do everything we can to help the SBA protect its systems and the data of our Nation's small businesses.

Our bill would require the SBA to be more proactive in protecting its data and more transparent in the event of a cyber breach.

First, our bill requires the SBA to issue a report detailing its cybersecurity efforts within 6 months of enactment. This report must include an assessment of the SBA's existing IT and cybersecurity infrastructure and its strategy to address vulnerabilities.

Notably, this bill ensures we are protecting ourselves against China by requiring an audit of any SBA system or IT equipment manufactured by a company headquartered in China.

The report must detail every cybersecurity risk or incident in the last 2 years and the SBA's strategy to address them going forward.

Second, our bill provides a framework for the SBA to follow in the event of future breaches, requiring timely notifications to Congress as well as the people in the small businesses affected. The bill also requires the SBA to submit a full report to both committees on how the cybersecurity risk or incident occurred and how many parties were affected.

The goal of this bill is to put the SBA and the small businesses that it interacts with and that depend on it on the best footing possible to combat the rising threat of cyberattacks.

I am very excited that this bill is up for a vote in the House today and has such strong bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of our bipartisan legislation and thank everyone who had a hand in bringing it to the floor. It is an exciting day when we can focus on our Nation's small businesses and cyber infrastructure, and I am hopeful for this bill's quick consideration by the Senate.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to thank Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. CROW for working together in a bipartisan manner on this very important legislation.

I know Mr. BALDERSON wanted to be here today to speak on this. Unfortunately, I believe he had some airline issues, but I believe he will be submitting a statement for the RECORD.

But again, we appreciate both Mr. BALDERSON and Mr. CROW's leadership on this.

□ 1700

We have seen a large increase in cybersecurity threats against not only the private sector, but also the public sector. We must remain vigilant to ensure the public's data does not end up in the wrong hands.

This bipartisan legislation ensures that the SBA is better equipped to protect American citizens' data.

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, the Small Business Administration fuels the U.S. economy, and through its lending and contracting programs, helps Americans start, build, and grow small businesses, but in doing so, the agency is tasked with handling vital information.

As we all know, cyberattacks are very real, and nobody, not even the Federal Government, is immune.

That is why this piece of legislation, H.R. 2331, is fundamental to the health of our national cyber infrastructure as it relates to small firms.

The SBA must protect its digital networks from cyberattacks and collaborate more with Congress. Modernizing the agency's IT infrastructure and implementing an effective cyber strategy is the key component of this bill. Doing so guarantees the SBA can adequately and effectively defend its digital network.

This bill also requires timely reporting of cyber incidents to Congress and affected individuals in the unfortunate event of a breach. The sharing of this information allows us to collaborate with the SBA to better address vulnerabilities in the system.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2331 has bipartisan support, so I once again want to urge my colleagues to support the measure. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2331, the SBA Cyber Awareness Act of 2019. This bill has had my full support since its introduction and I am happy to support its passage today.

I want to first thank my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado, for his leadership on this effort. It is nice to see Congress attempt to solve problems not only in a bipartisan manner, but also proactively before problems occur, rather than waiting until something goes wrong.

This bill addresses a potential weakness within the Small Business Administration's cybersecurity infrastructure. By passing this bill, we will proactively guard against harmful and widespread cyberattacks by bringing the Small Business Administration's cybersecurity defenses into the 21st Century. This bill will protect the sensitive business and personal information of millions of small business owners across the country.

In a rapidly-developing digital age, strong cybersecurity protections and reinforcements are of the utmost importance. Many small businesses don't have the defensive infrastructure to deal with cyberattacks. A threat to cybersecurity is a threat to small businesses' vitality. That's why this bill is so important.

We, as Congress, must lift up the small businesses of America and ensure they have the support they need to address this ever-changing online environment. And this bill is a bipartisan example of that.

Once again, I thank my colleague from Colorado for his proactive leadership, and I urge the passage of H.R. 2331.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr.

DELGADO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2331.

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.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER CYBER TRAINING ACT OF 2019

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1649) to amend the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1649

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 “Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DUTIES OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER COUNSELORS.

Section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(O) CYBER STRATEGY TRAINING FOR SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘cyber strategy’ means resources and tactics to assist in planning for cybersecurity and defending against cyber risks and cyber attacks; and

“(B) the term ‘lead small business development center’ means a small business development center that has received a grant from the Administration.

“(2) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a cyber counseling certification program, or approve a similar existing program, to certify the employees of lead small business development centers to provide cyber planning assistance to small business concerns.

“(3) NUMBER OF CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES.—The Administrator shall ensure that the number of employees of each lead small business development center who are certified in providing cyber planning assistance under this subsection is not fewer than the lesser of—

“(A) 5; or

“(B) 10 percent of the total number of employees of the lead small business development center.

“(4) CONSIDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER CYBER STRATEGY.—In carrying out this subsection, the Administrator, to the extent practicable, shall consider any cyber strategy methods included in the Small Business Development Center Cyber Strategy developed under section 1841(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2662).

“(5) REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall reimburse a lead small business development center for costs relating to the certification of an employee of the lead small business development center under the program established under paragraph (2).

“(B) LIMITATION.—The total amount reimbursed by the Administrator under subpara-

graph (A) may not exceed \$350,000 in any fiscal year.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1649, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2019, which helps Small Business Development Centers, or SBDCs, become better equipped to assist small entities with their cybersecurity needs.

Small businesses have increasingly become the targets of cyberattacks, and because of the complexity and cost associated with identifying, monitoring, and sharing information with appropriate agencies, only 31 percent of small firms have cybersecurity plans in place.

Besides access to capital, cybersecurity is one of the main impediments to entrepreneurial success. Our committee has heard many heartbreaking stories about how it took just one attack to shutter a business.

We have also heard time and time again the frustration business owners feel as they attempt to protect against ever-changing threats and navigate cyber regulations to win government contracts.

This legislation ensures that our Nation’s most vulnerable businesses are prepared to combat the imminent threat from cyberattacks.

Leveraging the vast network of SBDCs and their expertise in assisting entrepreneurs from all over the country is a step in the right direction to provide education and training to business owners seeking to implement safeguards to their networks.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Ranking Member CHABOT and Congressman EVANS for working together on this important issue, and I ask my fellow Members to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1649, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2019.

Information technology is a necessity for small businesses, because it arms them with the tools they need to be competitive in the global economy.

Unfortunately, small businesses are increasingly popular targets for

cybercriminals. The average cost of a cyberattack on a small business is over \$30,000, which can destroy, literally, a small business.

That is exactly why Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. EVANS, and I introduced H.R. 1649, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2019.

This bipartisan legislation establishes a cyber counseling certification program in lead SBDCs to better assist small businesses with planning and implementing cybersecurity measures to defend against cyberattacks.

The cyber assistance offered by trained staff at SBDCs would be provided at no or low cost to small businesses.

Cyber planning assistance will encourage small businesses to take a more proactive approach to defending themselves from cyberattacks by leveraging the expertise from SBDCs and their partner agencies and institutions. This bill utilizes existing Federal resources to cover the reimbursement costs.

We recognize cyber threats are ever-evolving and will continue to work with industry to ensure that appropriate staffing needs are met.

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. DELGADO) for the introduction.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my support for H.R. 1649, the Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act.

As vice chair of the Small Business Committee, I was proudly joined by fellow colleagues in the committee, Ranking Member CHABOT and Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, in introducing this important bipartisan legislation.

I consider small business to be the foundation of our communities. They are the engines that drive innovativeness, investments, and economic development, and they are the pillars that prop up our neighborhoods.

Both in my home State of Pennsylvania and across the U.S., small businesses account for more than 99 percent of all businesses. Nationally, they support almost 59 million jobs.

Over the past decade, as we have seen immense growth in technology and innovativeness, we have also seen an increase in incidents involving the theft of valuable information from businesses and governments.

In 2014, it was discovered that the Office of Personnel Management was hacked, resulting in the theft of over 20 million records.

In 2013, criminals broke into Target’s databases, with the credit and debit information from almost 40 million consumers being compromised.

Breaches have also been reported at Home Depot, JPMorgan Chase, and Sony.

As we have witnessed, these breaches can have extremely devastating and costly impacts on major corporations.

Now, if major entities struggle with the challenges of cybersecurity, what chances do our small businesses have?

H.R. 1649 was written to address this risk by providing cyber training, strategies, and resources to small businesses to better equip themselves against cyberattacks.

I appreciate having the opportunity to co-lead this important piece of legislation that will truly help our small businesses, the backbone of our Nation's economy, have the tools they need to protect themselves and to succeed.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, so I would be happy to close at this time if it is acceptable to the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from small business owners, cybersecurity experts, and government officials, and there is no question that improving cybersecurity for America's small businesses should be an urgent priority for small firms.

Over the past few years, the Federal Government has stepped up its efforts to both prevent and mitigate cyberattacks by coordinating and distributing cybersecurity resources directly to small businesses.

This commonsense legislation would continue our efforts to ensure small firms can access needed information from SBDCs to help prevent and respond to cyberattacks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this bill's adoption. I want to again thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS) for his leadership on this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, cybercrime is one of the greatest risks to every business in the world. Cybercriminals have realized small entities are more exposed than larger businesses that have dedicated in-house IT personnel overseeing their systems and networks.

Unfortunately, just 14 percent of small businesses have a plan in place for keeping their company secure.

This is why Congress and the SBA must continue to make cybersecurity training and resources a top priority for our Nation's small firms.

Through H.R. 1649, U.S. small businesses will be more prepared and better protected against cyber threats.

This bill has bipartisan support and is essential to enhancing America's cyber infrastructure, by starting with the most vulnerable businesses.

Our committee remains dedicated to advancing more policies to address the cyber challenges of small employers.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committees on the

Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Budget, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1649, the "Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2019."

H.R. 1649 calls for the establishment of a cyber counseling certification program, or the approval of a similar existing program, to certify the employees of lead business development centers to provide cyber planning assistance to small business concerns.

Cyber strategy refers to the necessary resources and tactics that assist in planning for cybersecurity and defending against cyber risks and cyber attacks.

Technology becomes more advanced every day, and cyber threats follow that same trend, making them increasingly difficult to predict and prevent.

Cyber attacks have cost companies with robust cybersecurity programs millions of dollars, and small businesses are no exception.

Yet, small businesses often lack the resources available to larger companies and corporations, making them especially vulnerable to such attacks.

A recent Ponemon study found that nearly 70 percent of all small businesses experienced a cyberattack in 2017, while nearly half admitted to having no understanding of how to protect their company against a cyber attack.

Additionally, another study by Hiscox found that less than 20 percent of small businesses said they were confident in their cybersecurity readiness, and barely half had a clearly defined cybersecurity strategy at all.

Due to the vulnerability of small business operations, we need extensive measures to identify, analyze, and alleviate threats of cyberattacks.

This bill ensures that there are at least 5 or 10 percent of the total number of employees within a small business development center who are certified in providing cyber planning assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1649 to protect the cybersecurity networks and facilitate cybersecurity training within our nation's small businesses.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1649.

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.

CLARIFYING THE SMALL BUSINESS RUNWAY EXTENSION ACT

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2345) to amend the Small Business Act to clarify the intention of Congress that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration is subject to certain requirements with respect to establishing size standards for small business concerns, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2345

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 "Clarifying the Small Business Runway Extension Act".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) *the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–324) applies to calculations of the size of a business concern made by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;*

(2) *Federal agencies rely upon such calculations to award contracts, including government-wide acquisition contracts, to small business concerns; and*

(3) *the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 has been effective since the date it was signed into law, on December 17, 2018.*

SEC. 3. CLARIFYING AMENDMENT TO THE SMALL BUSINESS RUNWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2018.

Section 3(a)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)(C)) is amended by inserting "(including the Administration when acting pursuant to subparagraph (A))" after "no Federal department or agency".

SEC. 4. FINALIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS RUNWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2018 RULES.

The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue a final rule implementing the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–324) not later than December 17, 2019.

SEC. 5. AMENDMENT TO SIZE STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) *SIZE STANDARDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS PROVIDING SERVICES.—Section 3(a)(2)(C)(ii)(II) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)(C)(ii)(II)) is amended by striking "not less than".*

(b) *SIZE STANDARDS FOR OTHER BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 3(a)(2)(C)(ii)(III) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(2)(C)(ii)(III)) is amended by striking "not less than 3 years" and inserting "5 years".*

SEC. 6. TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE SMALL BUSINESS RUNWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2018.

(a) *PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall implement a transition plan to assist business concerns and Federal agencies with compliance with the requirements of the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–324).*

(b) *3-YEAR CALCULATION FOR SIZE STANDARDS.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—The transition plan described under subsection (a) shall include a requirement that, during the period beginning on December 17, 2018, and ending on the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Administrator issues final rules implementing the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–324), allows the use of a 3-year calculation for a size standard to be applied to a business concern if the use of such 3-year calculation allows such concern to be considered a small business concern under section 3(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)(1)).*

(2) *3-YEAR CALCULATION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "3-year calculation" means—*

(A) *with respect to a business concern providing services described under clause (ii)(II) of such section, a determination of the size of such concern on the basis of the annual average gross receipts of such concern over a period of 3 years; and*

(B) *with respect to a business concern described under clause (ii)(III) of such section, a determination of the size of such concern on the basis of data over a period of 3 years.*

SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT TO UPDATE SAM.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the System for Award

Management (or any successor system) shall be updated to comply with the requirements of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2345, the Clarifying the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2019.

The Federal Government recognizes two categories of businesses: small and other-than small. Since there is no Federal definition for "other-than small," this category can encompass firms that barely exceed the SBA's small business size standards, up to the multibillion-dollar household names.

To ease the transition from "small" to "other-than small" to give growing businesses a real chance at competing against some of the biggest companies in the world, we enacted the Small Business Runway Extension Act last year.

By increasing the average-receipts-based calculation for SBA size standards, transitioning firms will have more time to grow and develop their competitiveness and infrastructure.

However, since the Runway Extension Act became law, its interpretation and implementation have been thwarted by the agency responsible for its implementation. This conflict between law and regulation has created much confusion in the Federal contracting community.

The bill before us today clearly and unequivocally states Congress' intention regarding the Runway Extension Act of 2018. It sets forth a specific date by which SBA must complete their rulemaking process while also creating a transition plan for small firms caught up in this tug of war.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representatives STAUBER and GOLDEN for collaborating to find a resolution to this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2345, the Clarifying the Small Business Runway Extension Act.

This important bipartisan legislation holds the SBA accountable for implementing the will of Congress.

In the previous Congress, this committee undertook a deep-dive examina-

tion of the effects of entering the middle market on small contractors, and the Runway Extension Act of 2018 was the direct result of these actions.

It was clear, under no uncertain terms, that the intent of the bill was to apply to the SBA's own calculation of its receipts-based size standards to small firms. However, the SBA took an opposing view, which resulted in a conflict between law and regulation.

□ 1715

H.R. 2345 is critical in that it mitigates this confusion and restates the original intent of the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 to make clear that the law does, in fact, apply to the Small Business Administration.

Additionally, H.R. 2345 responds to concerns raised by small businesses and stakeholders after the bill's passage, such as its effect on declining-revenue businesses and the need to provide the executive branch and small businesses time to adjust to the new rule. The transition plan offered by this bill will make significant strides in easing the path for small businesses and Federal agencies alike.

I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN) for their leadership.

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

Mr. DELGADO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN).

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about the Clarifying the Small Business Runway Extension Act, a bill that I am proud to lead alongside the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. Speaker, Americans expect our government to work efficiently and to follow through. They believe, and I agree with them, that when Congress passes a law, Federal agencies should implement it.

Our goal with this bill is quite simple: to make sure that the Small Business Administration respects the will of Congress as expressed in the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018, a law that was enacted in December 2018.

The bipartisan law was designed to ease the transition for businesses between SBA's small and other-than-small categories for the purposes of determining Federal contracting preferences.

Prior to the law, SBA evaluated eligibility by looking at 3 years of a business' gross receipts. In the law, SBA was instructed to extend that period to 5 years. The idea is that year-to-year changes in a small business' receipts will now be less likely to create a sudden loss of eligibility for this important contracting preference for small businesses.

As I have heard many times from small business owners in Maine, certainty is key to growth, and that is

what the 5-year calculation is designed to provide.

Unfortunately, SBA has dragged its feet implementing the law, claiming that the fact that the law lacked an explicit effective date meant that SBA did not have to implement it immediately. Aside from being a questionable reading of the law, SBA's delay has created a lost opportunity to improve the ability of SBA-eligible small businesses to transition and grow in a predictable and sustainable way.

As chair and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure of the House Committee on Small Business, Congressman STAUBER and I heard firsthand from experts and small business owners at a March hearing about the uncertainty that has been created by this delay in SBA's implementation of the 5-year change.

While we followed up on that hearing with a letter to SBA in April, we have yet to resolve this issue, so we are turning to a legislative solution. Our Nation's small businesses should be able to access the contracting opportunities that they deserve.

The bill will require SBA to issue implementing regulations no later than December of this year while creating a transition period for businesses to grow and compete.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize Mr. STAUBER, as well as Chair VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT, for their bipartisan work on this issue.

I particularly thank Congressman STAUBER. I think the opportunity to work together in our subcommittee has been a great one. I appreciate his bipartisan focus and his desire to push through a real solution for small businesses. I had a great time, as well, out in Minnesota, having field hearings about small business issues. I can't wait to have him up in Maine in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill. Let's make sure there is no doubt about Congress' intent in this area.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member CHABOT for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 2345, the Clarifying the Small Business Runway Extension Act, is a bill that does exactly what it says: makes clear the intent of the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018. The Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 was simple, straightforward, and unambiguous. It simply extended the Small Business Administration's receipts-based size calculation from a 3-year average to 5 years. Recognizing the significance of this bill for small businesses, the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 easily passed through both the House and Senate and became law on December 17, 2018.

Within 4 days of the law's passage, the SBA stalled its implementation, issuing an information notice that effectively contradicted the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 by maintaining the 3-year calculation until the agency could go through the rulemaking process. Coincidentally, or perhaps because of the pressure exerted by Congress and the public, the SBA issued its proposed rule for the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 mere days before Chairman GOLDEN and I held a hearing in the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure to hold the SBA accountable for its delay. Unfortunately, the proposed rule still maintains the current 3-year standard in SBA regulations.

During this hearing, we highlighted how this conflict in law versus SBA regulation imposes significant, real-world challenges for small businesses that may be teetering on the edge between small and other-than-small business status. The need for clarity was a constant and recurring theme, and this bill provides that clarity.

First, H.R. 2345 makes clear that the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 does, in fact, apply to the SBA and, therefore, should have become effective on the date it was signed into law. Thus, businesses relying on the 5-year average to remain in their small business status were correct in their assessment and may continue to hold this status.

Second, the bill requires the Small Business Administration to develop a transition plan for small businesses and Federal agencies as they shift to the 5-year rule. The transition plan shall include a buffer period in which firms that benefit from the old 3-year calculation may continue to rely on that formula for a set amount of time as they prepare for the eventual shift to the 5-year average calculation.

In short, H.R. 2345 restates the intent of Congress as written in the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 and adopts solutions that will create a smooth transition for all parties involved. This will allow more businesses to retain access to SBA benefits, including loans and contracts, that have allowed our small businesses to grow, thrive, and greatly contribute to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GOLDEN for his leadership on this act. It was and is a privilege to work with him on the Small Business Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2345, the Clarifying the Small Business Runway Extension Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that H.R. 2345 is important not only to help small contractors once they graduate, but it also holds the SBA accountable to the will of the people through an act of Congress.

Small businesses have told us they need a runway to grow and they need

that runway now. We need to ensure that this is done, that the SBA takes swift action. H.R. 2345 gets us there.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STAUBER and Representative GOLDEN for working together on this important bill to ensure that congressional intent is not thwarted when it comes to the adequate and prompt implementation of the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018. That law was intended to make it easier for small Federal contractors to transition into the open marketplace.

The SBA has interpreted that the Small Business Runway Extension Act of 2018 applies to every other agency adopting its own size standard but not the SBA itself. Many small businesses and legal experts disagreed with the SBA's position, as did our committee.

This bipartisan bill reiterates that the law has been effective since its enactment and requires the SBA to issue a final rule for its implementation before the end of this year.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2345, 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.

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 25 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 (Ms. TITUS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and
Pass H.R. 2744;
Agree to H. Res. 432; and
Pass H.R. 2037.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant

to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

USAID BRANDING MODERNIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2744) to authorize the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to prescribe the manner in which programs of the agency are identified overseas, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 475]

YEAS—414

Adams	Clay	Flores
Aderholt	Cleaver	Fortenberry
Aguilar	Cline	Poster
Allen	Cloud	Fox (NC)
Allred	Cohen	Frankel
Amash	Cole	Fudge
Amodei	Collins (GA)	Fulcher
Armstrong	Collins (NY)	Gabbard
Arrington	Comer	Gaetz
Axne	Conaway	Gallagher
Babin	Connolly	Gallego
Bacon	Cook	Garamendi
Baird	Cooper	García (IL)
Balderson	Correa	García (TX)
Banks	Costa	Gianforte
Barr	Courtney	Gibbs
Barragán	Cox (CA)	Gohmert
Bass	Craig	Golden
Beatty	Crawford	Gomez
Bera	Crenshaw	Gonzalez (OH)
Bergman	Crist	Gooden
Beyer	Crow	Gosar
Bilirakis	Cuellar	Gottheimer
Bishop (UT)	Cummings	Graves (GA)
Blumenauer	Cunningham	Graves (LA)
Bonamici	Curtis	Graves (MO)
Bost	Davids (KS)	Green (TN)
Boyle, Brendan	Davidson (OH)	Green, Al (TX)
F.	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Brindisi	Davis, Danny K.	Grothman
Brooks (AL)	Davis, Rodney	Guest
Brooks (IN)	Dean	Guthrie
Brown (MD)	DeFazio	Haaland
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Hagedorn
Buchanan	DeLauro	Harder (CA)
Buck	DelBene	Harris
Bucshon	Delgado	Hartzler
Budd	Demings	Hastings
Burchett	DeSaulnier	Hayes
Burgess	DesJarlais	Heck
Bustos	Deutch	Hern, Kevin
Butterfield	Diaz-Balart	Herrera Beutler
Byrne	Dingell	Hice (GA)
Calvert	Doggett	Higgins (NY)
Carbajal	Doyle, Michael	Hill (AR)
Cárdenas	F.	Hill (CA)
Carson (IN)	Duffy	Himes
Carter (GA)	Duncan	Holding
Carter (TX)	Dunn	Hollingsworth
Cartwright	Emmer	Horn, Kendra S.
Case	Engel	Horsford
Casten (IL)	Escobar	Houlihan
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Hoyer
Castro (TX)	Espallat	Hudson
Chabot	Estes	Huffman
Cheney	Evans	Huizenga
Chu, Judy	Ferguson	Hunter
Cicilline	Finkenauer	Hurd (TX)
Cisneros	Fitzpatrick	Jackson Lee
Clark (MA)	Fleischmann	Jayapal
Clarke (NY)	Fletcher	Johnson (GA)

Johnson (LA) Moolenaar Sewell (AL)
 Johnson (OH) Mooney (WV) Shalala
 Johnson (SD) Moore Sherman
 Johnson (TX) Morelle Sherrill
 Jordan Mucarsel-Powell Shimkus
 Joyce (OH) Mullin Sires
 Joyce (PA) Murphy Slotkin
 Kaptur Nadler Smith (MO)
 Katko Napolitano Smith (NE)
 Keating Neal Smith (NJ)
 Keller Neguse Smith (WA)
 Kelly (IL) Newhouse Smucker
 Kelly (MS) Norcross Soto
 Kelly (PA) Norman Spanberger
 Kennedy Nunes Spano
 Khanna O'Halleran Speier
 Kildee Ocasio-Cortez Stanton
 Kilmer Olson Stauber
 Kim Omar Stefanik
 Kind Palazzo Steil
 King (IA) Pallone Steube
 King (NY) Palmer Stevens
 Kinzinger Panetta Stewart
 Kirkpatrick Pappas Stivers
 Krishnamoorthi Pascrell Stuzo
 Kuster (NH) Payne Swalwell (CA)
 Kustoff (TN) Pence Takano
 LaHood Perlmutter Taylor
 LaMalfa LaMalfa Peters Thompson (CA)
 Lamb Peterson Thompson (MS)
 Langevin Peterson Thompson (PA)
 Larsen (WA) Phillips Thornberry
 Larson (CT) Pingree Timmons
 Latta Pocan Tipton
 Lawrence Porter Titus
 Lawson (FL) Posey Tlaib
 Lee (CA) Pressley Tonko
 Lee (NV) Price (NC) Torres (CA)
 Lesko Quigley Torres Small
 Levin (CA) Raskin (NM)
 Levin (MI) Ratcliffe Trahan
 Lewis Reed Trone
 Lieu, Ted Reschenthaler Turner
 Loeb sack Rice (NY) Underwood
 Lofgren Rice (SC) Upton
 Long Richmond Richmond Van Drew
 Loudermilk Rigglesman Varg as
 Lowenthal Roby Veasey
 Lowey Rodgers (WA)
 Lucas Roe, David P.
 Luetkemeyer Rogers (AL)
 Lujan Rogers (KY)
 Luria Rooney (FL)
 Lynch Rose (NY)
 Malinowski Rose, John W.
 Maloney, Rouda
 Carolyn B. Rouzer
 Maloney, Sean Roy
 Marshall Roybal-Allard
 Massie Ruiz
 Mast Ruppertsberger
 Matsui Rush
 McAdams Rutherford
 Mc Bath Ryan
 McCarthy Sánchez
 McCaul Sarbanes
 McClintock Scalise
 McCollum Scanlon
 McEachin Schakowsky
 McGovern Schiff
 McHenry Schneider
 McKinley Schrader
 McNerney Schrier
 Meadows Schweikert
 Meeks Scott (VA)
 Meng Scott, Austin
 Meuser Scott, David
 Miller Sensenbrenner
 Mitchell Serrano

NAYS—1

Griffith

NOT VOTING—17

Abraham Gonzalez (TX) Marchant
 Biggs Granger Moulton
 Bishop (GA) Higgins (LA) Simpson
 Blunt Rochester Jeffries Williams
 Brady Lamborn Young
 Clyburn Lipinski

□ 1900

Messrs. DESJARLAIS and MCKINLEY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS ON PEACEFUL PROTESTERS AND SUPPORTING TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN-LED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 432) condemning the attacks on peaceful protesters and supporting an immediate peaceful transition to a civilian-led democratic government in Sudan, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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 agree to the resolution, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 414]

YEAS—476

Adams Castro (TX) Doyle, Michael
 Aderholt Chabot F.
 Aguil ar Duffy
 Allen Cheney
 Allred Chu, Judy
 Amash Cicilline
 Amodei Cisneros
 Armstrong Clark (MA)
 Arrington Escobar
 Axne Clay
 Babin Cleaver
 Bacon Cline
 Baird Cloud
 Balderson Cohen
 Banks Cole
 Barr Collins (GA)
 Barragán Collins (NY)
 Bass Comer
 Conaway Connolly
 Cook Foster
 Cooper Foxx (NC)
 Correa Frankel
 Courtney Fudge
 Cox (CA) Fulcher
 Craig Gabbard
 Crawford Gaetz
 Crawshaw Gallagher
 Crist Gallego
 Crow Garamendi
 Cuellar Garcia (IL)
 Cummings Garcia (TX)
 Brown (MD) Gianforte
 Brownley (CA) Gibbs
 Buchanan Gohmert
 Buck Golden
 Bucshon Gomez
 Budd Davidson (OH)
 Burchett Davis (CA)
 Burgess Davis, Danny K.
 Bustos Davis, Rodney
 Butterfield Dean
 Byrne DeFazio
 Calvert DeGette
 Carbajal DeLauro
 Cárdenas DelBene
 Carson (IN) Delgado
 Carter (GA) Demings
 Carter (TX) DeSaunier
 Cartwright DesJarlais
 Case Deutch
 Casten (IL) Diaz-Balart
 Castor (FL) Dingell
 Doggett Harder (CA)

Harris McAdams Schneider
 Hartzler Mc Bath Schrader
 Hastings McCarthy Schrier
 Hayes McCaul Schweikert
 Heck McClintock Scott (VA)
 Hern, Kevin McCollum Scott, Austin
 Herrera Beutler McEachin Scott, David
 Hice (GA) McGovern Sensenbrenner
 Higgins (NY) McHenry Serrano
 Hill (AR) McKinley Sewell (AL)
 Hill (CA) Mc Nerney Shalala
 Himes Meadows Sherman
 Holding Meeks Sherrill
 Hollingsworth Meng Shimkus
 Horn, Kendra S. Meuser Sires
 Horford Miller Slotkin
 Houlahan Mitchell Smith (MO)
 Hoyer Moolenaar Smith (NE)
 Hudson Mooney (WV) Smith (NJ)
 Huffman Moore Smith (WA)
 Huizenga Morelle Smucker
 Hunter Mucarsel-Powell Soto
 Hurd (TX) Mullin Spanberger
 Jackson Lee Murphy Spano
 Jayapal Nadler Speier
 Johnson (GA) Napolitano Stanton
 Johnson (LA) Neal Stauber
 Johnson (OH) Neguse Stefanik
 Johnson (SD) Newhouse Steil
 Johnson (TX) Norcross Steube
 Jordan Norman Stevens
 Joyce (OH) Nunes Stewart
 Joyce (PA) O'Halleran Stivers
 Kaptur Ocasio-Cortez Stuzo
 Katko Olson Swalwell (CA)
 Keating Omar Taylor
 Keller Palazz o Takano
 Kelly (IL) Pallone Thompson (CA)
 Kelly (MS) Palmer Thompson (MS)
 Kelly (PA) Panetta Thompson (PA)
 Kennedy Pappas Thornberry
 Khanna Pascrell Timmons
 Kildee Payne Tipton
 Kilmer Pence Titus
 Kim Perlmutter Tlaib
 Kind Perry Tonko
 King (IA) Peters Torres (CA)
 King (NY) Peterson Torres Small
 Kinzinger Phillips (NM)
 Kirkpatrick Pingree Trahan
 Krishnamoorthi Pocan Trone
 Kuster (NH) Porter Turner
 Kustoff (TN) Posey Underwood
 LaHood Pressley Upton
 LaMalfa Price (NC) Van Drew
 Lamb Quigley Varg as
 Langevin Raskin Veasey
 Larsen (WA) Ratcliffe
 Larson (CT) Reed Velázquez
 Latta Reschenthaler Visclosky
 Lawrence Rice (NY) Wagner
 Lawson (FL) Rice (SC) Walberg
 Lee (CA) Richmond Walden
 Lee (NV) Rigglesman Walker
 Lesko Roby Walorski
 Levin (CA) Rodgers (WA) Waltz
 Levin (MI) Roe, David P. Wasserman
 Lewis Rogers (AL) Schultz
 Lieu, Ted Rogers (KY) Waters
 Lofgren Rooney (FL) Watkins
 Loudermilk Rose (NY) Watson Coleman
 Lowenthal Rose, John W. Weber (TX)
 Lowey Rouda Webster (FL)
 Lucas Rouzer Welch
 Luetkemeyer Ruiz Wenstrup
 Lujan Ruppertsberger Westerman
 Luria Rush Wild
 Lynch Rutherford Wilson (FL)
 Malinowski Ryan Wilson (SC)
 Maloney, Sánchez Wittman
 Carolyn B. Sarbanes Womack
 Maloney, Sean Scalise Woodall
 Marshall Scanlon Wright
 Mast Schakowsky Yarmuth
 Matsui Schiff Yoho
 Zeldin

NAYS—1

NOT VOTING—17

Abraham Gonzalez (TX) Marchant
 Biggs Granger Moulton
 Bishop (GA) Higgins (LA) Simpson
 Blunt Rochester Jeffries Williams
 Brady Lamborn Young
 Clyburn Lipinski

□ 1909

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAUDI ARABIA HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2037) to encourage accountability for the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 7, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 477]

YEAS—405

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amash
Amodoi
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy

Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duffy
Duncan
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Españillat
Estes

Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Clay
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gabbard
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
García (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson

Huffman
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Loebsock
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng

Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Morelle
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David

NAYS—7

Gaetz
Gohmert
Holding

NOT VOTING—20

Abraham
Biggs
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Brady
Clyburn
Davis, Rodney

LaMalfa
Massie
McClintock

Dunn
Gonzalez (TX)
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Jeffries
Lamborn

Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small
(NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Zeldin

Yoho

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the Majority Leader to immediately schedule the Born-Alive bill so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life, and I would ask all others to join in in that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

STAND UP FOR HARDWORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. H.R. 582 is truly long overdue.

Truly hardworking folks across this country, most of whom are first in the door and last to leave, will benefit from this strong legislation. Low-wage earners, manufacturing workers, healthcare workers, construction workers, and educators will come closer to being able to make ends meet.

Middle- and working-class real wages have remained stagnant over the past several decades, even as the corporations and shareholders they labor for have seen soaring profits.

In short, the Federal minimum wage has not increased since 2009. Hardworking families have not been given a fair deal and, thus, have an extremely tough time trying to keep up with the rising cost of living.

Madam Speaker, I will vote yes on H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in standing up for hardworking American people.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND CAROLYN CUBBEDGE

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the

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Mr. GOHMERT changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Carolyn Cubbedge on her retirement from the ministry and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

Reverend Cubbedge has made a tremendous impact throughout the First Congressional District of Georgia as Wesley's senior adult pastor. One of her most notable projects includes her work with Morningstar Children & Family Services in Brunswick, which provides therapy to children who have multiple diagnoses of intellectual disabilities. But this project is only the tip of the iceberg.

Through her work helping the most vulnerable—organizing church events, her dedication to the ministry, and her breadth of knowledge of God's word—she has helped Wesley to increase its congregation and engage those members to make our community a better place to live.

Reverend Cubbedge retired on June 30, and I am both thankful and proud that we were able to have a woman like her doing God's work in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Enjoy your retirement, Reverend Cubbedge.

FACES 4 AUTISM

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, 18 years ago, Isabelle Mosca's son was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. At the time, she was struck by how little information and support was available for families affected by ASD, so Isabelle began a support group for a few parents to meet over coffee and talk.

Eventually, Isabelle's meeting grew into a nonprofit organization called FACES 4 Autism, which helps over 750 families with five active and expanding support groups throughout South Jersey.

In addition to these support groups, Isabelle created a program called Massi's Mission, which focuses on water safety and survival for those with ASD.

Now that her son is close to 21 years old, Isabelle is exploring employment opportunities for him and all of the FACES' participants. They are aging out of their schools.

She never stops thinking, planning, and creating opportunities to make our community of South Jersey be the best that it can be.

Mr. Speaker, Isabelle's community thanks her every day for everything she does. South Jersey thanks her every day for all that she does. She is the best.

HONORING CLAYTON EDWARD NARVESON

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clayton Edward Narveson, an American hero and World War II combat veteran.

Mr. Narveson joined the United States Marine Corps following the attack on Pearl Harbor. He fought in the Battle of Tarawa in November of 1943. And during February and March of 1945, he served as a gunner on an 81 mm mortar during the Battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history, and our country's history.

After the war, Mr. Narveson attended St. Paul College of Law and had a successful career as an attorney.

For two decades, Mr. Narveson has made presentations to students telling some of the stories of his times in service and the struggles he and his family faced during the Great Depression. Through these presentations, he reminds young folks of the importance of serving your country and how blessed we are to live in the United States of America.

There are real heroes in this world, and they aren't music stars, famous athletes, or Hollywood actors. Our country's heroes are the men and women of our Armed Forces, like Mr. Narveson, who served and sacrificed for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to honor Clayton Narveson as the Tennessee Second District's July 2019 Veteran of the Month and to thank him for his service to our country, his dedication to his work and family, and for his continued support of our community and our great country.

HONORING DOROTHY JONES

(Ms. TLAIB asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dorothy Jones, a long-time resident of Detroit's 48217 community.

I first met Ms. Dorothy Jones in 2008. She was very active in her local block club. She was passionate about the right to breath clean air and stood up against corporate polluters like Marathon Petroleum Refinery. Ms. Jones was never a person to shy away from a challenge, and she always accepted nothing less than the best for her family, friends, and her neighborhood.

I am honored to have known Ms. Jones for more than 10 years. She would take me to task on important issues, which I always welcomed and for which I was better for it. I am grateful for her engagement on these issues that affect the quality of life for so many residents in the 13th Congressional District. It is truly an honor to have known her and served Ms. Jones. We honor her memory and her surviving family members.

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DON'T INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the latest proposal offered by my Democrat colleagues to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$15 an hour nationally is going to be devastating to small businesses and especially to jobs. A 107 percent increase is not going to create more jobs. It might sound nice on the surface, but it will be very harmful.

There is this myth that a large segment of Americans earn at or below the minimum wage, but, in reality, it is only 2.3 percent; and half of them are below the age of 25 who need these entry-level jobs to learn a skill, to learn to show up every day, to be on time, and to grow from there. Increasing it to \$15 an hour nationally would cause small companies to pass on higher prices to consumers, likely driving consumers away, and for a small business' little profit margin already, potentially forcing them to close their doors.

I visited a restaurant in my district that had two locations, and they have already closed one. They are afraid, as California is already on the track at \$12 and higher, how much longer they can keep their businesses open because of the huge cost of labor as a percentage of their business.

So let's get on the right track and do the things that support job growth and the success we have had the last couple of years after the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and not go down this path.

CONGRATULATING LEO GERARD ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. LEVIN of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great leader of workers throughout North America and, indeed, the world, Leo Gerard, who retired this afternoon as the president of the United Steelworkers.

Leo rose through the ranks and was a dynamic leader of the steelworkers for 40 years, and he was president for the last 18 years. He led on so many issues.

He was a fierce negotiator for his members, but he was also a leader for all workers. For example, he brought the environmental movement and the labor movement together to tackle tough issues about keeping our water and air clean for everyone and for future generations, while protecting our jobs.

But one thing I think stands out. I want to pledge to Leo Gerard on his retirement that we are not going to pass a replacement NAFTA unless it honors the workers of Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

What a great champion for workers in North America. I assure Leo that we are going to carry on his work.

God bless him.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR DEFENSE MANUFACTURING AND MACHINING SITE VISIT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I had the privilege of returning to Blairsville, Pennsylvania, and the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining site in my district.

Founded in 2003, NCDMM is committed to driving innovation throughout the defense manufacturing industry. They are helping revitalize our Nation's manufacturing industry by implementing solutions, cutting commercial and defense customer costs, increasing productivity, improving quality, decreasing lead times, and reducing waste. NCDMM works to leverage the expertise of their team to deliver innovative manufacturing solutions that produce real results.

My recent visit highlighted their efforts to create a 2-year curriculum, partnering with local institutions to train veterans for additive manufacturing placement following their service. This project addresses two critical issues: opportunities for veterans and strategic workforce shortages.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership and the work of the dedicated staff at the NCDMM site. I wish them all the best as they continue to bring innovation and efficiency to our Nation's manufacturing industries.

HONORING OKLAHOMA ASTRONAUT JOHN HERRINGTON

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor another Oklahoma trailblazer in space.

Astronaut John Herrington is a retired United States naval aviator and former NASA astronaut. Born in Wetumka, Oklahoma, Herrington made history in 2002 as the first Native American to fly in space.

A citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, Herrington earned a bachelor's of science degree in applied mathematics from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, a master's of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Ph.D. from the University of Idaho.

As a mission specialist on the STS-113 Endeavour mission, it was the 11th American assembly mission to the International Space Station. Dr. Herrington spent more than 330 hours in space and conducted three space walks, totaling nearly 20 hours.

Dr. Herrington then served as a capsule communicator, supporting shuttle and space station training and operations, and he was later chosen to become the chief engineer for safety and mission assurance at the Johnson Space Center.

I am proud of Dr. Herrington's achievements and barriers broken for Tribal citizens in space exploration.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN RANDALL EDWARDS

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Randall Edwards, a veteran of World War II, who this month turns 102 years old.

Edwards enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1935, at 18 years old, and served as a first class radioman for the USS *Canopus* in the Philippines. He then joined Allied ground forces, where he and his unit were captured and sent to a Japanese prison camp.

He spent 3 years as a prisoner of war, and despite being forced to work 7 days a week in appalling conditions and becoming nearly deaf due to abuse, he never allowed his spirit to be broken. In fact, after the war, he reenlisted in the Navy and was sent to Japan to serve in the U.S. occupying force. Edwards later became a national service officer for the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization, helping other veterans reintegrate.

Warrant Officer Edwards survived some of the worst of World War II, and he persevered through captivity and returned to bring democracy to his captors. Mr. Edwards represents the greatest of our Greatest Generation, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I say thank you.

COMING TO AMERICA

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the remarks made this weekend about the squad "going back to where they came from," it reminded me of some lyrics by Neil Diamond.

Far,
We've been traveling far,
Without a home,
But not without a star.
Free,
Only want to be free,
We huddle close,
Hang on to a dream.
On the boats and on the planes,
They're coming to America.
Never looking back again,
They're coming to America.

And it ends with:

They're coming to America.
They're coming to America.
They're coming to America.
They're coming to America.

Today, today, today, today, today.

My country 'tis of thee,

Today,

Sweet land of liberty,

Today,

Of thee I sing,

Today,

Of thee I sing,

Today.

That is the America that we know, and we are all here contributing to what makes America America, and I thank the body for listening.

THANKING HOUSTON FOR OPENING ITS DOORS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on this past Saturday, Houstonians gathered together at the Living Water International Apostolic Ministries in Houston with Pastor Stearns and about 10 other churches. I convened the press conference in the warehouse of this church filled with goods and necessities to respond to the most objectionable national order that I have ever heard from any President of the United States: to manipulate law enforcement and calling for national predawn raids across America.

Now, no one in America wants open borders, and Democrats do not, but we do believe in due process, the Constitution, and the justness of the phraseology on the Statue of Liberty to bring our forlorn and worn to this country.

We are the greatest experiment, and people in my constituency were frightened. I came home to say we must do something about it.

And how powerful it was for the churches in our community to say: We will open our doors to those who are frightened about the fact that they will be separated from their children or their children separated from them.

What a horrible image, internationally; how the United Nations has condemned it.

And so on that day, we opened the churches of Houston for those migrants who were frightened by these predawn raids. One even occurred today.

I finish my remarks by saying the 16th President of the United States really said what America is all about: "We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield, and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

That is Abraham Lincoln. That is who we are.

I thank Houston for opening its doors for those who are in fear.

REFLECTING ON PRIORITIES
FACING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague and coanchor for the Congressional Black Caucus, Delegate STACEY PLASKETT, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus for this Special Order hour where we can reflect on the priorities facing the American public.

This week, this body will be voting on the topic of raising the minimum wage and giving Americans a well-deserved raise and the impact that that would have not only on the workforce at large but, specifically, for Black workers and families across the United States.

Why is this so important as we touch on the issues of the day? According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition, there is no place in America where a full-time worker making the current minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour can afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.

Additionally, many working people, particularly working women and Black workers, are still facing persistent and even, in some cases, worsening wage gaps since 2000. The wage gap between Black and White workers has grown significantly.

So for this hour, Mr. Speaker, we will discuss the issues affecting American workers and why it is imperative that this House take up the WAGE Act that we will be considering later this week.

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I am honored to have with us here this evening several members of the Congressional Black Caucus who will share their thoughts, concerns, and priorities for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of stagnant wages for African Americans and, as a result, the lack of economic opportunities. The Federal current minimum wage is \$7.25, not enough to sustain an individual's necessary expenses, let alone for those who are an entire American family.

In fact, the purchasing power of the current minimum wage has gradually eroded over the past decade. Since this minimum wage was raised to \$7.25, its purchasing power has declined by 17 percent due to inflation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a staggering thought: A person working 40 hours a week at the current Federal minimum wage earns a gross income of \$15,000 per year before taxes. Even families working full-time earning the Federal minimum wage are below the Federal poverty level.

This is why we need to pass the Raise the Wage Act. Under H.R. 582, 1.3 mil-

lion Americans will be lifted out of poverty. This includes 600,000 children who will finally have a shot at a better life simply because of raising the minimum wage.

The Raise the Wage Act helps women and workers of color the most since women are nearly two-thirds of the American workforce who earn the Federal minimum wage or just above that. In Michigan's 14th District, up to 61,000 women and over 76,000 Black and Hispanic workers in my district alone will receive a wage increase. This bill is way overdue.

Mr. Speaker, let me reference a letter from my colleague, the Honorable EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas: "We have seen a recent epidemic of the working poor, hardworking Americans who each day are forced to choose between food, shelter, clothing, or healthcare for themselves and their families. In the past 40 years, minimum wage increases have not kept pace," causing many families to struggle.

The Honorable EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON says that the current minimum wage in her home State of Texas "is only \$7.25 an hour and even lower for workers in the service industry who instead rely heavily on customer tips for take-home pay. The African American community, which makes up a significant portion of the minimum wage workforce, is disproportionately affected by lower wages.

"According to the Economic Policy Institute, 38.1 percent of all Black workers would receive higher pay as a result of an increased wage, therefore opening up new economic opportunities.

"We must act quickly to ensure that any American willing to work 40 hours a week can afford basic necessities."

That is why, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON says, she is proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. The bill will lift millions of Americans out of poverty by gradually increasing the minimum wage over a period of 5 years to \$15.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be on the Record and join my colleague, Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, to say: "The growing racial wealth gap in our country can no longer go unnoticed. We now have an opportunity to take concrete steps to help close the gap."

This bill is way overdue.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for bringing forward her commitment and leadership on these important issues and sharing her support for the Raise the Wage Act, which this body will be considering later this week.

Just before we started this Special Order hour, one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle came up and talked about the negative impact of raising the Federal minimum wage. It is so interesting that CEOs for the 350 largest U.S. companies on average were paid \$18.9 million in 2017, which is a 17 percent increase from the previous

year. Meanwhile, wages for the average U.S. worker grew by 0.2 percent during that time.

How is it okay that CEO pay can go up 17 percent, and the average CEO for the 350 largest U.S. companies can, on average, be paid \$19 million, and we can't afford to give America a raise?

On average, controlling for age, gender, and education, Black workers are paid 16.2 percent less than White workers. According to the Census Bureau—which is why it is so important for people to participate in the Census, so that we have this vital data—in 2016, the average household income for a White family was \$80,720. For a Black family, that number sat at \$38,555, less than half of what an average White family took home.

That affects every aspect of that family's life, from their ability to afford housing to healthcare to being able to put food on the table and put gas in the car so that they can make it to their work.

We believe that one job should be enough and that people should be able to have a livable wage to take care of themselves and their families.

I urge my colleagues throughout this body, particularly those on the other side, that if they are going to come to this floor this week and oppose giving Americans a raise, then they have to be able to explain why they support CEO pay increasing more than 17 percent in one given year while U.S. worker wages grew at less than 0.2 percent during that same time.

Workers deserve a wage increase. Their wages have been stagnant for far too long. That is why we are encouraging this body to bring up the Raise the Wage Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), who is my good friend. He is a gentleman with whom I have the honor of serving on the Ways and Means Committee. The Representative likes to talk about the history of his great city, and I know he is here to also talk about why the constituents of that great city deserve a wage increase.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentleman and the coleader for leading this event for the Congressional Black Caucus under the leadership of Chairwoman KAREN BASS. The Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of this Congress.

I don't know if you know, and I am constantly reminding people, Mr. Speaker, that the President, in August 2016, came to Philadelphia and said, "What the hell do you have to lose?" That is what he said.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus in calling for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. I am pleased that the Democratic leadership plans to put the Raise the Wage Act up for a vote in the House.

A raise for these workers is long overdue. Congress has not raised the national minimum wage in 10 years.

My home State has not raised its minimum wage for 13 years. Inflation has increased the cost of living nearly 19 percent from 10 years ago. Food, healthcare, and utilities all went up.

Let me repeat that. A raise for these workers is long overdue. Congress has not raised the national minimum wage for 10 years. My home State of Pennsylvania has not raised its minimum wage for 13 years. Inflation has raised the cost of living nearly 19 percent from 10 years ago. Food, healthcare, and utilities all went up.

Members from both parties should be able to agree that no one who works full-time should live in poverty. I am very focused on poverty because my city of Philadelphia has a 26 percent poverty rate.

Raising the minimum wage is one of the best tools in the toolbox for lifting Americans out of poverty. That includes 600,000 children who will be lifted out of poverty by the Raise the Wage Act.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, to understand that one of our colleagues, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, who leads the effort around the reduction of poverty, particularly child poverty, when we talk about the issue, 600,000 children will be lifted out of poverty by the Raise the Wage Act. How can my colleagues say no to that?

We need to find some way to move forward. We have an opportunity, and that opportunity is the Raise the Wage Act. Americans who are working the hardest to grow our economy need to share the rewards of that growth. Just think, that raise in their pocket allows them to spend money in the economy. That is not something to take lightly.

When we talk about small businesses—and I am the vice chair of the Small Business Committee—and we talk about small businesses being the backbone of our community, obviously, they need customers. They need customers who have money in their pockets.

It is not just enough for that individual, but it is enough for entrepreneurs. It is enough for building businesses. It is enough for all of us to recognize the importance and the significance of raising the wage.

We need to not take that lightly. We need to understand that, in some of our communities, there is a growing income inequality gap, and we need to address that. The way to address it is by fundamentally raising the wage. Raising the wage gives people more of an opportunity to participate in this economy.

We know this economy tends to be rigged for those who are at the top against those at the bottom who are trying to struggle and find a way. When you talk about our not raising the minimum wage in 10 years—and 13 years in Pennsylvania—I want anyone who is listening or watching what is taking place here this evening to know that the Congressional Black Caucus,

clearly, as the chairperson always likes to say—she always talks about hidden figures. The hidden figures are that we haven't raised the wage in 10 years, and in Pennsylvania, they haven't raised it in 13 years.

Americans who are working are working harder. They are working more than one job. They are working two, three jobs. There is something wrong with that. The CEOs have definitely been getting their raises.

Where is the raise for the people who cook their food, make their beds, and clean their offices? Where is the raise for the people who cook their food, make their beds, and clean their offices?

Today, led by my two colleagues from the great State of Nevada and the great Virgin Islands who are leaders in this effort, I am glad to join with them to add my voice to raising the wage.

This is not an accident that the Congressional Black Caucus will be in the forefront because this is an issue that means a great deal to an awful lot of Americans and particularly African Americans when we have a President of the United States who comes and says: What do you have to lose?

The fact of the matter is, when we look at his administration, clearly, the policies are not connecting to moving the people, at least not moving the people whom we are talking to and the situations that we are seeing.

The bottom line on the minimum wage is simple: Pay these people now. Pay these people now and raise the wage.

We can no longer joke about this. We can no longer have it as political rhetoric. We must show action, and we must show people that we are determined to raise the wage.

I thank my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to add my voice to both of yours for what we are attempting to do today. We need to keep doing this every single day and not leave here until this wage raises.

The bottom line of the minimum wage is simple: Pay these people now and raise the wage.

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Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania and again thank him for his dedication and commitment on behalf of his constituents in Philadelphia, in bringing their voice to this process.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of tonight's Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, we are led by a dynamic chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Representative from California, Congresswoman

KAREN BASS, and I had the honor of attending one of her congressional field hearings this week. The CBC is dedicated on a number of policy platforms, and this is among them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), my colleague, whom I am coanchored with this evening.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) for yielding and thank him for the work he is doing on this issue and so many issues that affect American families.

Sometimes here in Congress we can be distracted by issues that come up on a daily basis, but the gentleman from Nevada has kept his mind focused on the things that everyday Americans are concerned with, that is, proper wages, livable homes, good education, affordable housing. I am appreciative that we have kept our eyes on the prize, kept our eyes focused on the policy and the things that move the needle on this.

I was so happy to hear just a few moments ago from the gentleman from Philadelphia, Mr. EVANS, because, although he talks quite a bit about Philadelphia, there is one area he talks about quite a bit, and that is sustaining the Black middle class, sustaining Black homeownership.

This minimum wage bill, Raise the Wage Act of 2019, supports those kind of initiatives. It gradually raises, as we have said, the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 over several years, over the next 6 years, to lift millions of workers out of poverty, even those who are working, who are still the working-class poor, stimulate local economies, and restore the value of the minimum wage. It gives 40 million Americans a raise.

As we heard from the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), my colleague and good friend, it helps women and workers of color.

Today, more than 40 percent of Black workers and one-third of Hispanic workers will get a raise under this bill. Women make up nearly two-thirds of all minimum wage workers.

In areas like the Virgin Islands, where many of the homes and percentages of homes are run by single-person households, those being predominantly Black women, this is very important that women are two-thirds of the minimum wage workers. For them to be lifted out raises families.

One thing that I think this touches on and is part of that hasn't really been expressed as yet is wealth disparity.

The wealth, the measure of an individual's or a family's financial net worth, provides all sorts of opportunities for American families. Wealth makes it easier for people to seamlessly transition between jobs, move to new neighborhoods, and respond to emergency situations.

Unfortunately, wealth in this country is unequally distributed by race,

particularly between White and Black households. African American families have a fraction of the wealth of White families, leaving them more economically insecure and with far fewer opportunities for economic mobility.

Even after considering positive factors such as increased education levels, African Americans still have less wealth than Whites. Less wealth translates into fewer opportunities and is compounded by lower income levels and fewer chances to build wealth or pass accumulated wealth down to future generations.

This also is very symptomatic and has a well-documented history of mortgage market discrimination. It means that Blacks are significantly less likely to be homeowners than Whites, which means they have less access to savings and tax benefits that come with owning a home.

Persistent labor market discrimination and segregation also force Blacks into fewer and less advantageous employment opportunities than their White counterparts. Even when they have homeownership, they have less access and ability to be able to use that homeownership.

In the Virgin Islands, surprisingly, almost 60 percent of families of Black people own their home, but they are unable, and the banks are unwilling, to allow them to leverage that wealth for education, for second mortgages, to start businesses. The scrutiny is high.

When we are talking about wages, in the Virgin Islands, we make 75 percent of what is the national average. The average for a Virgin Islands family is \$37,254; whereas, the estimated national average is \$50,221. And 13.5 percent of U.S. Virgin Islanders have family income levels below \$10,000 a year—for a family. That is horrendous.

This bill, however, and passage of this bill would mean lots of wealth and lots of opportunities for Black families, African Americans, the working poor, White poor families, Hispanic families.

African Americans own approximately one-tenth of the wealth of White Americans. In 2016, the median wealth for nonretired Black households 25 years old and older was less than one-tenth that of similarly situated White households. Those are White households, making the same and having the same access as Black families, which are making one-tenth that of similarly situated White households.

The Black-White wealth gap has still not recovered from the Great Recession. In 2007, immediately after the Great Recession, the median wealth of Blacks was nearly 14 percent of Whites. Although Black wealth increased at a faster rate than White wealth in 2016, Blacks still owned less than 10 percent of White's wealth at the median.

Black households have fewer and are in greater need of personal savings than their White counterparts. For a variety of reasons, Blacks are more likely to experience negative income

shocks but are less likely to have access to emergency savings. As a consequence, Blacks are more likely to fall behind on their bills and go into debt during times of emergency.

The systematic challenges in narrowing the wealth gap for African Americans with Whites persists. The wealth gap persists regardless of a household's education, marital status, age, or income.

This is something that we are fighting for. We are grateful for this legislation that is going to make a difference in African American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing this important matter to the floor for us to discuss here this evening, and it is my plea for my colleagues to pass this legislation, for it to go to the Senate so that it can make a tremendous difference in so many Americans' lives. Raising the income level of the less fortunate assists all Americans in raising the tide of Americans' ability to excel.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands, and I appreciate, again, her work as a coanchor tonight and bringing not only the increasing issues of wages for American workers, but tying and connecting the point around housing and the ability to really afford to live.

As we have heard time and time again from our constituents, people are falling behind, and it is because they have seen stagnant wages for far too long. While the other side is giving corporate tax cuts to the wealthiest, 83 percent of the benefit of their \$1.7 trillion tax going to benefit only the top 1 percent, it has done nothing to help the working poor and those who actually help build a strong economy.

For the past 40 years, Congress has failed to increase the minimum wage to keep up with inflation, making it the longest period of time in history without an increase. Today's minimum wage workers have less buying power than minimum wage workers had in the 1960s. In the past 40 years, the Federal minimum wage, stuck at \$7.25 since 2009, has lost 30 percent of its value.

What does this mean? It means the minimum wage is worth less today than it was in 1960. The same wage can't buy you as much due to inflation and wages not being corrected to match for inflation.

The person who has been leading the charge as the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, the person who has brought so much perspective on so many issues, from criminal justice reform to voting rights and now is making sure that this body considers the Raise the Wage Act this week, is none other than Congressman BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we are considering the Raise the Wage

Act later this week. That proposal will gradually increase the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025, and after that, adjust for inflation.

I thank the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) for convening this Special Order to discuss the minimum wage on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, because this gives us an opportunity to explore the historic and continuing intersection between race and the Federal minimum wage.

When the Federal minimum wage was established under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, it purposely excluded many African American workers. Agriculture and most service workers, who are predominantly African American, were exempted from labor law protections.

From 1930 to 1940, the share of Southern Blacks who worked in agriculture, in domestic service was over 40 percent. At the same time, the practice of tipping, which had originally enabled American employers to avoid paying wages to newly freed Black workers, was in effect.

And the law also treated disabled workers as inferior and permanently codified some forms of labor as lower than minimum wage work. Those exclusions lowered labor standards in the South by excluding a large share of its workforce and denied African American workers access to basic labor protections.

But in 1966, Congress finally amended the Fair Labor Standards Act to expand coverage to agriculture, restaurants, nursing homes, and other service workers. The benefits of that act were particularly strong for Black workers. Nearly one-third of Black workers gained protection under the Fair Labor Standards Act compared to only 18 percent of Whites.

The size of that minimum wage increase in finally protecting a larger share of African Americans closed 20 percent of the Black-White earnings and income gap. Estimates based on the differential impact of the 1966 amendments by industry and wage levels within industry give a clear indication of how important the minimum wage protection was, because it established a Federal minimum wage.

We know how effective it was because Black workers in industries that were not protected by the Fair Labor Standards Act were paid significantly lower than the minimum wage. After increases in minimum wage increased earnings by an average of 34 percent, studies found modest to positive job gains as a direct result of the increase in the minimum wage in the industries that came under the Fair Labor Standards Act protection.

The poverty rate for African American children fell from a staggering 65 percent in 1965 to 39 percent in 1969 after the minimum wage expansion in coverage and increase to its highest value in real terms. That caused a rapid decline in childhood poverty amongst African Americans. Fifty

years later, the Raise the Wage Act would have a similarly strong impact on African American workers.

This past June marked the longest time in the history of the minimum wage where there was no increase in the minimum wage. Just about half of African American workers live in the 21 States where the minimum wage has not been increased over \$7.25 an hour.

Most of the States, in fact, have not waited for the Federal Government; they went ahead and increased it. But half of the African American population lives in the 21 States stuck at \$7.25.

To make matters worse, factoring for inflation, these minimum wage workers have actually suffered a cut over the last decade. So, as a result, millions of Americans who are working full-time still find themselves in poverty. In fact, one recent study showed that there is no city or county in America where a minimum wage worker working 40 hours a week can afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.

□ 2015

So, for nearly a third of Black workers, this is important legislation. One-third of Black workers would get a raise if Congress passes the Raise the Wage Act.

We have a responsibility and an opportunity to restore the value of the minimum wage, lift millions of hard-working people out of poverty, and boost the wages for African American families across the country.

There is nothing more that we can do to actually reduce the wage and income gaps, the wealth gaps, that we have in America today than raise the minimum wage.

So, this week, we must pass the Raise the Wage Act and restore President Roosevelt's promise of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman from the Education and Labor Committee. It makes a big difference when he has the gavel and the priorities that he has set as the chairman of that committee and the fact that, as we have done from the beginning of this Congress, the For the People Agenda has been focused on making a difference in the lives of the American people that we represent.

The gentleman just pointed out that two-thirds of the minimum wage workers in this country are women and that two-fifths—in fact, 38 percent of African Americans and one-third, 33 percent of Latinos—would get a raise when we pass the legislation and the Federal minimum wage is increased to \$15 an hour.

It would also boost the economy. A 10 percent increase in the minimum wage would increase sales by around \$2 billion each year.

Now, I want to just take on a couple of the myths that have been out there with this administration and my Republican colleagues who have opposed the efforts of the House Democrats to bring forward this wage increase.

One of the myths out there is around the Black unemployment rate in this country. We hear often the President say that, among certain racial groups, particularly African Americans, the unemployment rate is at an all-time low.

And while it is, in fact, true that the unemployment rate is down and it has been down and has been steadily falling since 2011, well before Trump was sworn into office, that rate of decline has not gained momentum since.

In fact, even at an annual rate of 6.6 percent, the Black unemployment rate is still more than double the White unemployment rate, which is at 3.2 percent.

What this says is that the Black unemployment rate has been about double the White unemployment rate for more than four decades, making this relationship more historically significant than any single unemployment rate.

So, Mr. President, if you want to take credit for the low unemployment rate among African Americans, then you need to be held accountable for keeping the rate down and to propose a plan to close the persistent 2-to-1 racial disparity that has existed for more than 40 years.

Another issue that I want to take on is the fact of the amount of jobs that have been created since this administration has taken over. We know that many of the jobs that have been created are, in fact, low-wage, low-paying jobs. Many of the jobs are in the gig economy, and those individuals are not getting paid the same amount as traditional workers.

We know that many employers are paying workers for less than full-time work, which means that they still cannot provide for their families, that they are not being afforded healthcare, and, in fact, the government is subsidizing many of these corporations—the same corporations that give their CEOs 17 percent pay increases but then want to tell the workers: “You can't have a raise.”

And these are the myths that the other side wants to, again, put out there to distract from the House Democrats and our agenda in giving Americans a raise.

Now, I want to just touch on one specific point from my home State in Nevada. Recently, our Governor, Governor Steve Sisolak, the first Democratic Governor to be elected in Nevada in 20 years, signed into law a \$12 minimum wage increase, following 10 years of wage stagnation for working-class families in Nevada.

In fact, the last time we raised the minimum wage in Nevada was when I was serving in the State Senate. So, elections do have consequences.

But, with the help of our legislative leaders, Speaker Jason Frierson and Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro, the Nevada legislature increased the Nevada minimum wage to \$12. But that raise won't go into effect

until 2020, and, for now, one in five workers in Nevada are making under \$12 an hour, less than \$24,000 a year—\$24,000 a year.

What is a family supposed to do? How are they supposed to make ends meet on \$24,000 per year?

Mr. Speaker, \$12 for Nevadans is a step in the right direction, but we need to be working to provide equitable wages for all Nevadans.

The Raise the Wage Act would work toward a \$15 minimum wage by 2024, as the chairman from the Education and Labor Committee indicated.

A pay increase will benefit 127,000 workers in my district alone. Specifically, it will raise wages for 18,800 Black workers, more than any other congressional district in Nevada.

So, the Raise the Wage Act is an important measure. It would give up to 27 million workers a raise, lifting 1.3 million Americans out of poverty and boosting economic growth by putting money into the pockets of workers, who will spend that money in growing the economy, not like the corporate tax cut that was given to big corporations where they simply just bought up more shares of their own stock.

They didn't do anything to hire more workers or to help stimulate the economy. They just made themselves more rich.

All Americans who work hard deserve to be able to afford a middle-class life and opportunities to get ahead.

I believe that one job should be enough and that it is time that we set our children up for success by making sure that working families have the wages that they need to provide for themselves and their family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that discussion about what is happening in Nevada and raising the minimum wage, what that is going to do in the gentleman's State. Kudos to the Governor to take that bold leap.

There is concern about what happens with small businesses, and I know that the chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor has been thinking about that as well, that this bill does take this into account, that there are small businesses that this may be difficult for.

But we have to understand what the entire objective is of this bill. I know that there are amendments by other good Democrats to look at the Government Accountability Office to determine employment impacts.

That is much more helpful than what was done with the tax bill that the Republicans passed. They aren't trying to see what the impact has been of their legislation. They didn't ask for a lookback to see is this, in fact, stimulating the economy, because the objective was not to stimulate the economy.

The objective was to give the 1 percent—those corporate CEOs and others—additional money. It was not to

put money into the economy. Because, if it was, then we would be looking at it right now: What is the impact on America?

That was not put into that tax bill. But the Democrats are willing to do that. The Democrats want to make sure that this legislation is doing what it is meant to do; that is, to be for the people, for the larger American people, by supporting that.

When I was talking earlier about the wealth gap and income, income and employment are obstacles to the wealth gap. The income gap has actually worsened over time.

According to a 2016 Economic Policy Institute report, the income gap between Blacks and Whites has grown since the 1970s, not lessened. In 1979, for example, Black men earned 22 percent less than White men. In 2015, Black men earned 31 percent less.

The report's authors note that, in 1979, Black women's wages reached near parity with White women's wages, but that by 2015 the gap had risen to 19 percent.

We are not getting better. The equality gap is not narrowing. We need to face the statistics. And Democrats are willing to do something about that.

The report also found that the gap persists across women's educational levels and worsens for those with higher levels of educational attainment.

The gap at a higher level of education for White women and Black women with similar education is worse than it is for those lower.

In 1980, college-educated Black women with more work experience actually earned slightly higher wages than college-educated White women with the same experience. By 2014, however, the gap had widened to 10 percent in White women's favor. That is a reversal.

Similarly, while the gap between college-educated Black and White men in 1980 was slightly less than 10 percent, it rose to 20 percent by 2014.

In 2017, researchers from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco similarly concluded that the Black-White earning gap is growing, and that the growth can largely be attributable to so-called immeasurable factors.

What are some of those factors? Those factors that play a role in the Black-White income and employment gap include employment discrimination, weak enforcement of anti-discrimination laws, and racial differences in unobserved skill levels, as opposed to measurable factors such as educational attainment or work experience.

I am grateful that we have this time this evening to talk about this, to let the American people see the truth—not a tweet, not what is happening on the news on a regular basis, but the things that everyday Americans care about: wages; minimum wage; having quality of life; and, as my colleague from Nevada said, the ability to have one job to sustain your family, not having to

juggle two and three jobs, leaving your children at home and not being able to be an important and positive force in your children's lives because you have to work.

We are concerned as well about what is happening to our young children who don't have that supervision in the evening.

Those are some of the issues where we have concern in Black communities, not because parents aren't working and they are not there for their children because they are shiftless, they are lazy, et cetera, the things that you hear. It is because parents have two jobs. They are trying to hold it together.

Single households, even those households that have both parents working, they have to have two jobs to make ends meet.

This is a means to get people to be able not only to get out of poverty but to support their families, to support their communities, to create wealth, to have homeownership, which allows access to so many other things such as education and so many things that are, in fact, the American Dream.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman was talking about the impact beyond just family incomes, which is important. And we want to give all Americans a raise.

While the priorities on the other side were about giving corporations and billionaires more wealth creation, we are laser-focused on putting more money in the pockets of hardworking Americans.

But the question I have is around the recent research with States that, following an increase in wages, we actually can see the rates of suicides fall, consumer spending rise, and a more productive workforce.

There is no place in America where a full-time worker making \$7.25 an hour can support their entire family, let alone afford basic needs.

There is no place in America where a full-time worker making the current \$7.25 an hour can support their entire family.

And, as I said, the productivity piece—which, again, my colleagues are always talking about the need to make America more competitive and more productive. Well, in one study, researchers tracked 10,000 workers at about 200 department stores and found that a dollar increase in the minimum wage led a typical employee to sell about 5.4 percent more per hour.

So, if we give workers the wage that they are deserving of, they will put that extra money to work for the American economy, unlike giving more tax breaks to the wealthy. For a worker earning the minimum wage, the increase could be almost 20 percent.

□ 2030

Now, again, I have underscored repeatedly the impacts to the economy, and we will take on that debate later this week when this bill comes to the floor.

But the point I just wanted to ask my colleague about is that human impact. You know, this is more than just numbers. This is the two-thirds of American workers who are women who are increasingly the head of their household.

So can the gentlewoman relate to that impact and the constituents that she serves and the stories that she has heard about the anxiety that they go through every day and not being able to make ends meet?

Ms. PLASKETT. Every day, every week, and definitely every month, they are trying to juggle which bill they are going to pay, and which bill they are not going to pay. Are they going to be able to keep the lights on? Are they going to be able to pay the rent?

In the Virgin Islands, public school students wear uniforms. Are they going to be able to scrounge up money at the end of the summer to be able to provide clothing for their children to be able to go to school?

Those are the things that people are concerned with working minimum wage jobs, and working them hard; and then maybe at night having a night-time job somewhere else; and making sure that maybe one of the older children is watching the younger ones; making sure that they are asleep while they are away at that job; and praying that nothing happens while they are there, not because they are negligent parents, but that they care enough to be trying to put food on the table.

Those are the stories that I am sure you hear in your district; that I know I hear in the Virgin Islands; and that I am sure all of our colleagues, if they are willing to listen to the people that are on the ground, the people that have put them here in Congress, are facing every day.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I know the affected workers that I hear from in my district, they want this raise. This raise would provide on the order of about \$3,000 a year. That is enough money to make a tremendous difference in the life of a preschool teacher, a bank teller. We have got fast-food workers who, today, struggle to get by on around \$20,000 a year.

A \$15 minimum wage by 2024 would generate \$144 billion in higher wages for workers and would also benefit the communities in which they live.

So while corporate profits, as a share of our national income, are at an all-time high, wages are at a 65-year low. So if we are not going to give workers a raise now, when are we going to give it to them? They have been waiting for far too long.

I want to commend the leadership of our Speaker, of course; the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, it is because of their leadership, the chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, and others, that this is part of the For the People Agenda.

This is why we are laser-focused. And we are laser-focused on a lot of priorities. We want to give workers a raise. We also want to address housing affordability. We want to address the issues around healthcare costs and the out-of-pocket expenses that so many Americans are dealing with.

We know that more entrepreneurs want to start a new business, and we want to give them the tools and the resources necessary for them to do so.

We want to repeal some of the unnecessary tax burdens on Americans, like the Cadillac tax on healthcare, which I know this body is also going to be considering.

So these are among the priorities of the House Democratic Caucus in the For the People Agenda that we are raising up and reminding people that we need to deal with this congressional session.

So, just to highlight, again, the Raise the Wage Act of 2019 would gradually raise the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2024; and here is how it would work.

As the chairman has indicated, it would raise the Federal minimum wage to \$8.55 this year and increase it over the next 5 years until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2024. After 2024, it would adjust the minimum wage each year to keep pace with growth in the typical worker's wages, something that we have not done for some time.

It would phase out the outdated sub-minimum wage for tip workers, which has been frozen at a meager \$2.13 since 1991. And it would sunset the sub-minimum wages for workers with disabilities employed in sheltered workshops, and for workers under age 20.

This is a commonsense measure, something that American workers and our constituents have been demanding. In fact, 1 in 9 U.S. workers are paid wages that leave them in poverty today, even when working full-time and year round. And so that is why this bill is so important, the Raise the Wage Act.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to bring this measure to the floor later this week, and to debate with my colleagues on the other side where they stand and whether they will join with the House Democrats to pass this legislation over to the Senate so that they can also take action.

I also want to just touch on a point that my colleague was talking about, dealing with home ownership in the Black community. Today, The Wall Street Journal released a report that Black home ownership is at an all-time low. It has fallen 8.6 percentage points since its peak in 2004, hitting an all-time low in the first quarter of this year.

Homes and neighborhoods with a concentration of Black homeowners, on average, are worth less than 6 percent than they were in 2006. And in the second quarter of 2018, Black home ownership stood at 41.6 percent, down more

than a full half percent from the first quarter rate.

Nationally, the Black home ownership rate is only 41.6 percent, virtually unchanged from 50 years ago when the Federal Fair Housing Act banned racial discrimination in housing. The national White home ownership rate, by comparison, is 71 percent.

So these are really dire statistics that I wanted to bring to the attention of this body. I know that the chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, MAXINE WATERS, and her Subcommittee on Housing are working to tackle this problem as well.

But it is time that we address the 30 percent point gap in home ownership between Black and White Americans, which is at its highest point in the new millennium.

Why is this so important?

It is, because, for Black Americans, so much of our wealth is accumulated in the equity of home ownership. And again, this is central to the issue of giving workers a raise because they need that raise in order to afford the higher cost of housing, the higher cost of healthcare, the higher cost of food, the higher cost of gas. Everything is going up but their pay check, and that is what I hear from my constituents, from those who are earning a minimum wage.

Under the Raise the Wage Act, it would increase by almost 20 percent. So I am looking forward to, again, debating my colleagues on this important issue when we come to the floor later this week.

As we have talked about here tonight, the Congressional Black Caucus is laser-focused on making sure that Americans get a raise. We know that giving Americans a raise would give up to 27 million workers the benefit of increased take-home pay. It would lift 1.3 Americans out of poverty. And it would boost our economic growth by putting money where it belongs, in the pockets of workers who will spend that money in the economy.

Unlike what was done with the corporate tax cuts that were given, where 83 percent of the benefit of the \$1.7 trillion tax cut went to benefit just the top 1 percent, we are focused on helping everyday Americans get the money they need in their pocket.

Now, I asked a question at the beginning of tonight's Special Order hour dealing with the 350 CEOs from the largest U.S. companies who earned an average pay, in 2017, of \$1.89 million. That is a lot of money.

I have no beef with CEOs getting a fair pay, but that pay increase amounted to a 17 percent increase from the previous year. And just before we started the Special Order hour, one of my colleagues came to the floor and said that increasing the Federal minimum wage would be devastating to our economy.

Well, what does he say about the CEOs who are getting record pay and record bonuses, and the fact that all of

the corporate tax cuts that they provided went to just buying more stocks in those companies?

Meanwhile, the wages for the average U.S. worker grew at .2 percent during that same time. This is a fundamental question that I honestly would like my colleagues to be able to answer, and I will seek them out during this week, because I want them to join with us to pass this bill.

This really should not be a partisan issue. Giving Americans a raise is something that we all should agree on benefits all of our workers. My colleagues on the other side have low-wage, low-paid workers in their district just like I have low-wage, low-paid workers in my district.

The Raise the Wage Act of 2019, which proposes raising the Federal minimum wage in six steps to \$15 an hour by 2024, will result in a pay increase for 38.1 percent of all Black workers and 23.2 percent of all White workers.

This disproportional effect on Black workers comes not just because they are more often employed in jobs that currently pay less, as we have discussed tonight, than the proposed minimum wage, but also because they are less likely to work in States or localities that have passed a State minimum wage that is higher than the Federal minimum wage.

So that is why it is time for Federal policy to set the standard so, regardless, of where you live, you can earn a decent, livable wage to provide for yourself and your family.

We believe that one job should be enough. It should be enough to provide for you and your family. It should be enough to put a roof over your head. It should be enough to make sure that you can pay for the copays and the prescription drugs that you need in order to stay well.

It should be enough so that we can address food insecurity in this country; and it should be enough so that your children can be set up for success in their future.

I encourage each and every one of my colleagues this week to study this bill; to think about the constituents back home in their district; and to ask themselves, what were we sent here to do; to help the well-off and the well-connected, or to give voice to those who deserve to be heard in this body?

I am honored to be a Representative from Nevada's Fourth Congressional District; and I know my district is not exactly the same as every other district, but I have rural parts and I have urban parts of my district, covering 52,000 square miles.

The commonality in my district is that there are struggling people throughout every corner of my district. And so when I vote this week in favor of giving workers a raise, I will be voting to give a raise to every single worker throughout Nevada's Fourth, and throughout this great country.

I thank my colleague, the coanchor, Congresswoman STACEY PLASKETT, the

chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, Mr. SCOTT, and each and every one of my colleagues who have spoken here tonight.

I thank the Speaker for giving us this hour to bring about the issues that are important.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of stagnant wages for African Americans and, as a result, the lack of economic opportunities.

We have seen a recent epidemic of the working poor—hardworking Americans who each day are forced to choose between food, shelter, clothing or health care for themselves and their families. In the past 40 years, minimum wage increases have not kept pace with inflation, causing millions of families to struggle with stagnant wages while the cost of goods and services continue to rise. The current minimum wage in my home state of Texas is only \$7.25 an hour, and even lower for workers in the service industry, who instead rely heavily on customer tips for take-home pay.

The African American community, which makes up a significant portion of the minimum-wage workforce, is disproportionately affected by lower wages. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 38.1% of all black workers would receive higher pay as a result of an increased wage, therefore opening up new economic opportunities.

We must act quickly to ensure that any American willing to work 40 hours a week can afford basic necessities, that is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act. This bill would lift millions of Americans out of poverty by gradually increasing the minimum wage over a period of five years to \$15.

Mr. Speaker, the growing racial wealth gap in our country can no longer go unnoticed. We now have an opportunity to take concrete steps to help close the gap.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2022

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORELLE) at 10 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3494, DAMON PAUL NELSON AND MATTHEW YOUNG POLLARD INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018, 2019, AND 2020; RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE REPORT 116-125 AND AN ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION; RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES DISAPPROVING OF SALES, EXPORTS, OR APPROVALS PURSUANT TO THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.RES. 489, CONDEMNING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RACIST COMMENTS DIRECTED AT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Mr. RASKIN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-154) on the resolution (H. Res. 491) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3494) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; relating to the consideration of House Report 116-125 and an accompanying resolution; relating to the consideration of measures disapproving of sales, exports, or approvals pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 489) condemning President Trump's racist comments directed at Members of Congress, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 582, RAISE THE WAGE ACT

Mr. RASKIN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-155) on the resolution (H. Res. 492) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 582) to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. JEFFRIES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family commitment.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 6, 116TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, Washington, DC, July 15, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 302(c) of House Resolution 6 (116th Congress) I hereby submit the attached statement "setting forth the aggregate amounts expended by the Office of General Counsel on outside counsel and other experts pursuant to this title on a quarterly basis" for the quarter beginning on April 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2019, for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely, ZOE LOFGREN, Chairperson.

Attachment.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS—H. RES. 6

Table with 2 columns: Period, Amount. Rows: January 1-March 31, 2019 (\$0.00), April 1-June 30, 2019 (0.00), Total (0.00)

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on July 15, 2019, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 866. To provide a lactation room in public buildings.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 526, the Cambodia Democracy Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2037, the Saudi Arabia Human Rights and Accountability Act of 2019, as amended, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2615, the United States-Northern Triangle Enhancement Engagement Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1630. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Idaho; Regional Haze Progress Report [EPA-R10-OAR-2017-0571; FRL-9996-57-Region 10] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1631. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of the Redesignation Request for the Washington, DC-MD-VA 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2018-0387; FRL-9996-72-Region 3] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1632. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations; Consistency Update for California [EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0366; FRL-9994-98-Region 9] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1633. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Basic Inspection and Maintenance Program Certification State Implementation Plan for the Baltimore Nonattainment Area Under the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2018-0397; FRL-9996-28-Region 3] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1634. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Texas; Revisions to Public Notice for Air Quality Permit Applications [EPA-R06-OAR-2018-0555; FRL-9995-52-Region 6] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1635. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; NC; Emission Control Standards, Open Burning, and Miscellaneous Revisions [EPA-R04-OAR-2017-0422; FRL-9996-43-Region 4] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1636. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Regional Haze Progress Report [EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0761; FRL-9996-38-Region 9] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1637. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations; Consistency Update for Maryland [EPA-R03-OAR-2014-0568; FRL-9995-39-Region 3] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1638. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin Nonattainment Designation for the 1997 and 2008 Ozone Standards and Clean Data Determination for the 2008 Ozone Standards [EPA-R05-OAR-2018-0035; FRL-9996-18-Region 5] received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1639. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-70, "Fair Elections Temporary Amendment Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1640. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-71, "Adams Morgan Business Improvement District Temporary Amendment Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1641. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-73, "Florida Avenue Multimodal Project Completion Temporary Amendment Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1642. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 23-74, "Fiscal Year 2019 Revised Local Budget Temporary Adjustment Act of 2019", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

1643. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2017-2018 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 160808696-7010-02] (RIN: 0648-B150) received July 9, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1644. A letter from the Regulatory Analyst, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Incorporation by Reference; North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria; Hazardous Materials Safety Permits [Docket No.: FMCSA-2018-0165] (RIN: 2126-AC01) received July 10, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RASKIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 491. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3494) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; relating to the consideration of House Report 116-125 and an accompanying resolution; relating to the consideration of measures disapproving of sales, exports, or approvals pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 489) condemning President Trump's racist comments directed at Members of Congress (Rept. 116-154). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. MORELLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 492. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 582) to provide for increases in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes (Rept. 116-155). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 3751. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the relief of interest on certain Federal student loans; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 3752. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a grant program for veterans to become appraisers for home loans under chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 3753. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish rules for payment for graduate medical education (GME) costs for hospitals that establish a new medical residency training program after hosting resident rotators for short durations; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 3754. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marihuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H.R. 3755. A bill to redesignate the Sullys Hill National Game Preserve in the State of North Dakota as the White Horse Hill National Game Preserve; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 3756. A bill to ensure that pre-apprenticeship programs are considered when planning health professions opportunity grant

career pathway demonstration projects; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 3757. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the minting of the Morgan dollar and the Peace dollar; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. STANTON, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 3758. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments to small transit intensive cities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. CHENEY, and Mr. GALLEGRO):

H.R. 3759. A bill to prohibit United States persons from dealing in certain information and communications technology or services from foreign adversaries and to require the approval of Congress to terminate certain export controls in effect with respect to Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MENG, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. HAALAND, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. OMAR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 3760. A bill to enhance the rights of domestic workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, House Administration, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Ms. FINKENAUER, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3761. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education from denying students access to transcripts because of loan default; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 3762. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision and dental plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 3763. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to provide assistance and technical expertise to enhance the representation and leadership of the United States at international standards-setting bodies that set standards for 5th and future generations mobile telecommunications systems and infra-

structure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 3764. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code to prohibit predispute arbitration agreements that force arbitration of disputes arising from private education loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MALINOWSKI (for himself, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H. Res. 489. A resolution condemning President Trump's racist comments directed at Members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. OMAR, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H. Res. 490. A resolution condemning and censuring President Donald Trump; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

96. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution No. 6, urging President Trump and the United States Congress to continue to work to find a solution to the problems created by the Windfall Elimination Provision; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

97. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution No. 61, calling on the President of the United States to make it the policy of the U.S. that it will not start a nuclear war and therefore will not use nuclear weapons first, and we call on the United States Congress to pass legislation supporting this policy; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 3751.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 3752.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:
H.R. 3753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 3754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the implied power to repeal laws that exceed its constitutional authority as well as laws within its constitutional authority

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H.R. 3755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 and

Article I, section 8, clause 18

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 3756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 3757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Title 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 3758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress as stated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 3759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 3760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 3761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imports and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States."

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 3762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 3763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8

By Ms. SCANLON:

H.R. 3764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 24: Mr. BYRNE and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 40: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 94: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 141: Mr. PALLONE.

- H.R. 154: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 196: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 303: Mrs. AXNE and Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 333: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 372: Mr. YOUNG.
H.R. 397: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H.R. 485: Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 510: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 526: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 538: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 585: Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 647: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 712: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 724: Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 737: Ms. SCANLON and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 748: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LATTA, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 763: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 925: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 935: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 942: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 961: Ms. SCANLON and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 1011: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1042: Ms. SCANLON and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1078: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1154: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 1164: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H.R. 1175: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mrs. DEMINGS.
H.R. 1186: Mr. HECK.
H.R. 1269: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 1305: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1337: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1346: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1349: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1358: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1360: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 1379: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1400: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 1406: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 1418: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 1440: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 1441: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 1444: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1446: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 1511: Mr. RYAN and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1530: Mr. UPTON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H.R. 1572: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1597: Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 1641: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 1679: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 1709: Ms. PRESSLEY and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1727: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1728: Mr. HICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1754: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1788: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1837: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1850: Mr. TRONE and Mr. KINZINGER.
H.R. 1954: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 1970: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 2031: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2037: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 2056: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2089: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 2124: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2128: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2146: Mr. CUNNINGHAM and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 2156: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2178: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 2181: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2199: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2203: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 2214: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2218: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2253: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2256: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HECK, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2257: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 2311: Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 2328: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 2335: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2350: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 2353: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2382: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILD, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Ms. SHALALA.
H.R. 2420: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RYAN, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2424: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2426: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. HAALAND.
H.R. 2438: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 2441: Mr. SIRES, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 2453: Mr. SPANO.
H.R. 2498: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 2501: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2532: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2571: Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 2579: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2615: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2623: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 2643: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 2685: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2721: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 2731: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BACON, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 2775: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2778: Ms. SCHRIER and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2796: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2808: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2842: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2846: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 2853: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2866: Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma.
H.R. 2887: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2905: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 2913: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 2918: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3005: Ms. PELOSI and Mr. MCCARTHY.
H.R. 3038: Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 3062: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.
H.R. 3076: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3082: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
H.R. 3096: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3098: Mr. HASTINGS.
H.R. 3103: Ms. SLOTKIN and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3143: Mr. BRADY.
H.R. 3182: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 3190: Mr. HIMES, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 3195: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 3197: Mr. CLAY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. EVANS, Ms. DEAN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. BASS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3224: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3239: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 3280: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3296: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 3319: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 3369: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BERA, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3370: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3375: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SIRES, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
H.R. 3378: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3400: Mr. ROUDA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3402: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3403: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3404: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL.
H.R. 3444: Mr. COMER.
H.R. 3451: Mr. EVANS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3452: Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 3463: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 3473: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3482: Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. GABBARD, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.
H.R. 3487: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3501: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3510: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. NEAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 3517: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 3524: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 3529: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 3530: Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3534: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 3537: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 3580: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 3589: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. CRIST, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. VELA, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LOEBACK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LAMB, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. WILD, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. MOULTON.

- H.R. 3594: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 3614: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 3618: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 3619: Mr. DUFFY and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 3620: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3623: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. DEAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 3627: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 3637: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 3661: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 3668: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 3685: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. OMAR.
- H.R. 3702: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, and Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 3711: Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 3722: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3724: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 3735: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3742: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. STEFANK, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 3745: Mr. COHEN.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.J. Res. 32: Mr. CURTIS.
H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. BEYER.
H. Res. 23: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
- H. Res. 127: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. CURTIS.
H. Res. 138: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H. Res. 190: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H. Res. 220: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Res. 246: Mrs. DEMINGS.
H. Res. 255: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H. Res. 326: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
H. Res. 345: Mr. TAYLOR.
H. Res. 358: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. POCAN.
H. Res. 390: Mr. FULCHER.
H. Res. 432: Mr. KEATING, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. TAYLOR.
H. Res. 441: Mr. TAYLOR and Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 442: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H. Res. 452: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.