

the qualities of patriotism and selfless service to this country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in thanking Post 117 for its support of veterans, students, and the Shawano community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2019 (TRAP ACT)

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission—a congressional watchdog for human rights and democracy in Europe and Eurasia—I am frequently reminded of the new opportunities that technology and globalization present for human rights defenders around the globe. For those struggling to defend their liberty and human dignity, our interconnected world brings with it the possibility of sharing information, coordinating action, and demonstrating solidarity across thousands of miles in fractions of a second. It means that truth is more capable of piercing the veil of enforced ignorance erected by the world's most repressive states. Technology also further empowers dissidents in exile to connect with, and influence the foot soldiers of freedom who march on in their homelands.

But with these new openings for liberty come novel approaches to repression. Authoritarian and autocratic regimes are appropriating agile, 21st century technology to prop up sclerotic systems of brutality and corruption. Technological developments have provoked greater feelings of insecurity in these brittle regimes and propelled them to extend their repression far beyond their borders, sometimes reaching into the refuge of democratic societies where political opponents, independent journalists, and civil society activists operate in safety.

Madam Speaker, I recently introduced bipartisan legislation to tackle these emerging challenges with my friend and Helsinki Commission Ranking Member, Representative JOE WILSON of South Carolina. We are confident that this legislation, supported by the bicameral leadership of the Helsinki Commission and other leaders on human rights, will place the United States on course to lead the free world in holding the line against these modern manifestations of political persecution, or what some have called “transnational repression.” The Transnational Repression Accountability and Prevention Act—or TRAP Act—is designed to counter one key instrument in the autocrat's 21st century toolkit: politically-motivated abuse of the International Criminal Police Organization, more commonly known as INTERPOL.

INTERPOL is a legitimate and potent tool for international law enforcement cooperation—one that the United States relies on heavily to bring criminals to justice and thwart threats to security around the globe. Sadly, autocrats have recognized the potential for repression in INTERPOL's worldwide communications system that ties into the law enforcement agencies of its 194 member countries.

The Helsinki Commission regularly receives credible reports from human rights defenders,

journalists, political activists, and businesspeople who have fallen victim to the efforts of corrupt regimes to ensnare them using INTERPOL's system of international requests for arrest and extradition, known as Red Notices and Diffusions. These are the modern-day “traps” addressed by the TRAP Act. Because of these notices, innocent individuals live in fear of traveling internationally and have been detained, had their bank accounts closed, and, sometimes, been returned into the hands of the very regimes from which they escaped.

Madam Speaker, our legislation opens three new fronts against the threat of INTERPOL abuse. First, it clearly states that it is the policy of the United States to use our influence in INTERPOL to advance specific reforms that increase transparency and accountability for those that abuse the system while helping the organization to live up to its stated obligations to uphold international human rights standards and resist politicization. It further establishes that the United States will use its diplomatic clout to confront countries that abuse INTERPOL and work to ensure the freedom of movement and ability to engage in lawful commerce of victims of this abuse the world over.

Second, the TRAP Act exerts oversight over the United States' internal mechanisms to identify, challenge, and respond to instances of INTERPOL abuse. The bill requires the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and State—in coordination with other relevant agencies—to submit to Congress an assessment of the scope and seriousness of autocratic abuse of INTERPOL, an evaluation of the adequacy of the processes in place domestically and at INTERPOL to resist this abuse, and a plan for improving interagency coordination to confront this phenomenon.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, the TRAP Act places strict limitations on how the United States Government can use INTERPOL notices in legal or administrative proceedings that could interfere with the freedom or immigration status of individuals in our country. We have been deeply concerned by reports that some authorities in this country have improperly cited INTERPOL notices from autocratic countries to detain individuals and place them in danger of being returned to the very countries from which they fled. The TRAP Act will make crystal clear that autocratic regimes cannot use INTERPOL notices to weaponize the U.S. judicial system against their political targets.

Madam Speaker, these measures are critical to restricting the freedom that some autocratic regimes have enjoyed to harass, persecute, and detain their political opponents around the world. Authoritarian and autocratic states like China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Venezuela must be called out by name and held to account for their repeated manipulation of legitimate law enforcement tools for petty political ends.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to place the TRAP Act in the context of the other work that the U.S. Helsinki Commission has done to address the grave threat of transnational repression and malign influence by authoritarian regimes. The Countering Russian and Other Overseas Kleptocracy—or “CROOK” Act, the Kleptocrat Exposure Act, and the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act have all been the result of a focus by Commissioners and Commission

staff on developing a bipartisan congressional response to the existential threat of global authoritarianism.

We can no longer sit idly by, content that those who wish to do us harm are on the other side of the world. In this new age of autocracy, the threat is here—now—and it comes in the form of abusive Red Notices, dirty money, and bought-and-paid-for lawfare tactics. The purpose of these tactics is to silence journalists and activists, hollow out the rule of law, and ensure that no one ever dare pursue this new class of transnational kleptocrats whose sole goal is the wholesale looting of the countries they claim to serve and the seamless transfer of those ill-gotten gains to our shores and those of our allies.

HONORING GAREN AND SHARALYN
STAGLIN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 16, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Garen and Sharalyn Staglin for decades of mental health philanthropy and advocacy and to recognize their mental health research non-profit, One Mind, in its twenty-fifth year.

Mr. and Ms. Staglin met at the University of California Los Angeles, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations. Mr. Staglin then received an MBA with an emphasis in Finance and Systems Analysis from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. In 1975, Ms. Staglin graduated from New York University with a Master of Public Administration and in 1985, she did graduate work at University of California Davis, where she focused on viticulture and enology. In 1985 Mr. and Ms. Staglin founded Staglin Family Vineyard.

The entire Staglin family have dedicated themselves to mental health advocacy and philanthropy, which they view as an obligation to give back. In 1990 the Staglins' son Brandon was diagnosed with schizophrenia and twenty-five years ago, the family founded One Mind, a non-profit that focuses on cures for brain illnesses and injuries and promotes scientific collaborations. The goal of One Mind is to create a research paradigm that can be replicated for research of different brain diseases and injuries. They also began hosting the annual Music Festival for Brain Health twenty-five years ago. By parlaying their professional success and relationships, the Staglins have raised more than \$400 million, which has been given to mental health research and charities. In 2017, Mr. Staglin began One Mind at Work, which offers a guide of best practices for improving workplace mental health. Brandon currently serves as the Director of Marketing Communications, overseeing web design, content, and development, at both One Mind and Staglin Family Vineyards. He has won national awards for his work in the mental health sphere.

Mr. and Ms. Staglin have received numerous awards for their work. In May of 2018 they received the Ellis Island Honor Society Award, which recognizes people's accomplishments within their field. They also received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the United