

States will not stand firm in the face of Russian aggression.

It is my hope that the House of Representatives can, once again, come together as we did in 2014 to condemn Russia's actions in Ukraine, reaffirm support for Russia's expulsion from the G-8, and stress that future participation must hinge on respecting the territorial integrity of other nations.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 546.

I want to thank Mr. SIREs for authoring this very important resolution, which reiterates that Russia should not be permitted to rejoin the Group of Eight summits until Putin's flagrant aggression radically changes.

Since the Russian invasion in 2014, Ukraine has been embroiled in a battle for territorial sovereignty. For 6 years, Russia has illegally occupied the Crimean Peninsula and supported separatist fighting in the Donbas region of Ukraine.

For over a decade, Russia has also illegally occupied the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia, which constitute 20 percent of Georgia's territory.

Mr. Speaker, I visited Tbilisi within a week after Putin's invasion into South Ossetia when the thought was they might even go the rest of the way into Tbilisi, and I can say I saw firsthand the IDPs—the internally displaced persons—the refugees, the loss of life, and people who were wounded; and, again, it was all reminiscent of the bad old days of the Soviet Union now being replicated by Vladimir Putin.

Putin has violated fundamental principles of international law, and he has done so with impunity. He has refused to respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors and denied the standards of democratic societies.

These invasions and occupations have displaced thousands of ethnic Ukrainians and Georgians and resulted in severe human rights abuses against both populations. Moreover, Russia's meddling in the democratic elections of the United States and our allies throughout Europe have further demonstrated Putin's complete disrespect for the values and beliefs shared by other members of the Group of Seven.

This resolution condemns Russia's occupation of Crimea and other destabilization efforts in eastern Ukraine, reaffirms U.S. support for Ukraine's territory and sovereignty, and admonishes Putin's assaults on democratic processes around the world.

Most importantly, this legislation establishes that Russia should continue to be suspended from the Group of Seven until Putin adheres to the standards of democratic societies.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague from New

Jersey for authoring this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), who is the ranking member.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 546.

Under President Putin's leadership, Russia has invaded and occupied parts of Ukraine and Georgia, assassinated political opponents at home and abroad, and enabled the corrupt regimes of Assad in Syria and Maduro in Venezuela.

Putin has also waged cyber warfare and disinformation campaigns against the United States and our allies, interfered in our elections, and spied off of our coasts with their submarine warfare capability.

All of these actions go against the fundamental principles of the Group of Seven and threaten democracies around the world.

As I have said many times over the years, Mr. Putin is not our friend. The United States and our allies cannot trust him to be a reliable partner as long as he continues to lead his country down a path of corruption, assassinations, and oppression.

As stated in this resolution, Russia should not be readmitted to the Group of Seven until Putin respects the principles shared by the other members, relinquishes his choke hold over Crimea, and ceases his global attacks on democratic institutions. Maintaining the integrity of the Group of Seven is vital to the group's success, and Russia cannot be allowed to bully its way back in.

I would like to thank Representative SIREs for his hard work on this resolution, and my good friend, Representative SMITH, for championing this resolution today. Under Putin's leadership, the world has become more deadly and more dangerous, and his people have fewer freedoms and greater poverty.

In closing, we need to stand up to dictators like Mr. Putin. I do think this is not, again, a Republican or a Democrat issue. Standing up against a hostile enemy, Mr. Putin and the Russian Federation, is an American issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan measure. I thank my colleague, Mr. SHIMKUS, for supporting it and my good friend from New Jersey, Congressman SMITH.

Time and time again, Russia ignores the standards and norms of democratic societies and actively operates counter to American interests. If we do not stand firm against Russian aggression and allow them to participate in future G-7 summits, we will be rewarding Putin for his attacks on our country and our allies and that will damage our

partnerships and alliances around the world.

With this measure, Congress makes it clear that we do not support Russia's inclusion in the G-7 as he continues to attack us, our partners, and democratic institutions around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members would join me in supporting its passage, 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 Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 546.

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. SIREs. 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.

REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT AND OTHER AGREEMENTS TO ENSURE A LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 585) reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 585

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the main goal of the Good Friday Agreement was to bring an end to the violence on the island of Ireland and to ensure self-determination, peace, and reconciliation for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that has proven critical to the decades of relative peace that have followed;

Whereas an exit from the European Union by the United Kingdom that does not appropriately protect the Good Friday Agreement threatens to undermine progress that has been made in moving beyond the legacy of the past in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the power-sharing agreement negotiated between the Government of Ireland, the Government of the United Kingdom, and parties in Northern Ireland in 1998 was a critical step toward negotiating lasting solutions to the issues described in the Good Friday Agreement and in other agreements that followed;

Whereas the collapse of the power-sharing institutions in 2017 has created additional difficulties and is serving as a roadblock to continued progress;

Whereas despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent

agreements, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including securing justice for victims of state-sponsored violence and other violence and providing for the rights of all sections of the community;

Whereas the reintroduction of barriers, checkpoints, or personnel, also known as a “hard border”, between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland would further threaten economic cooperation between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom as well as the successes of the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the United States Congress served a prominent assisting role in the negotiation of Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in striving for peace on the island of Ireland more broadly; and

Whereas Congress greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the United Kingdom and the European Union to ensure that any exit from the European Union by the United Kingdom supports continued peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement;

(2) urges a successful outcome to the dialogue between all parties in Northern Ireland to ensure that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement operate again and that ongoing political challenges and debates can be overcome;

(3) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements;

(4) expresses opposition to the reintroduction of a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland;

(5) supports the right of all the people on the island of Ireland to self-determine their future as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement; and

(6) will insist that any new or amended trade agreements and other bilateral agreements between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom include conditions requiring obligations under the Good Friday Agreement to be met.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIREs. 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. 585.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to start by thanking my colleagues, Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. KING, for authoring this excellent bipartisan measure that reaffirms Congress’ support for lasting peace in Northern Ireland. The Good Friday Agreement and the fulfillment of every obligation under it is the only way to ensure that

those times of violence and division never return.

That is why I am alarmed by the current situation with Brexit, which could reintroduce a hard border between the north and the Republic. This is a dangerous prospect not only for the peace process but for the economic stability of the island and for the rights of the border communities.

With this bipartisan resolution we send a clear signal to the United Kingdom and the European Union. It is a priority for Congress that any Brexit deal must protect the Good Friday Agreement and all of its components.

□ 1700

We must ensure that nothing compromises the peace, security, and economic prosperity across Ireland.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this measure, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting it.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2019.
Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H. Res. 585, “Reaffirming Support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland,” the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 585.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 2, 2019.
Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 585, Reaffirming support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this resolution.

I acknowledge that provisions of this measure fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 585 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the

bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 585, which calls for the protection of the Good Friday Agreement and any Brexit deal that may come to fruition. I congratulate the bill’s sponsor, TOM SUOZZI from New York, for this important initiative.

The Good Friday Agreement brought resolution to the decades-long violent conflict known as The Troubles. The signing of the Good Friday Agreement 20 years ago was truly historic, extraordinarily difficult to achieve, a remarkable framework for peace, and the hope for the beginning of reconciliation.

In its most important provisions, the agreement launched a series of challenging protocols by which the leaders of the nationalist and unionist communities in Northern Ireland agreed to strive for better governance and a peaceful solution of differences. It was characterized by prisoner releases, new government structures, British demilitarization of the North, the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, and systemic police reform.

In terms of realizing peace, consider this: In the 30 years between 1969 and 1998, approximately 3,500 people were killed in political violence, while in the 20 years since the Good Friday Agreement, fewer than 100 have lost their lives due to intersectarian violence—though there was also the ongoing phenomenon of intrasectarian killings attributable to internal disputes among paramilitary groups.

Mr. Speaker, there is a broad bipartisan consensus on peace for Northern Ireland, dating back to the integral role played by President Bill Clinton and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell in the negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Congressman SUOZZI’s resolution, introduced with PETER KING as the lead Republican—and I am proud, like Mr. SIREs, to be a cosponsor—reflects this bipartisan interest. I, myself, Mr. Speaker, have personally chaired 16 congressional hearings and markups of legislation on human rights issues in Northern Ireland, most of them with a special focus on police reform and the need to establish a public, independent judicial inquiry into state-sponsored collusion in the murder of human rights attorney Patrick Finucane and

others who were the victims of political assassinations on both sides of the divide.

Mr. Speaker, I also sponsored an amendment that resulted in suspending all U.S. support for and exchanges with the then-British police force in Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Vetting standards for RUC officers were implemented and then enforced. President Bush was then able to certify that human rights principles were part of police training going forward, both in the RUC and in its reformed successor, the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Thus, I, too, like many in this Chamber, have a strong personal interest in the subject of Congressman SUOZZI's resolution.

Also, I am extremely worried about the negative implications of a hard Brexit. This 1998 agreement has kept the peace on the island of Ireland for over two decades by maintaining a soft border between the two entities. A Brexit deal that results in a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland could very possibly instigate another outbreak of violence. The fact is that armed paramilitary groups still exist and could reengage in killing, should there be a sustained backsliding attributable to the failure to achieve an equitable Brexit resolution.

It is vital to the safety and security of Ireland that any potential Brexit deal effectively address the Irish backstop issue and maintain all components of the Good Friday Agreement. This resolution affirms this as the U.S. position on Brexit, and I commend its author. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), the author of this resolution.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SIREs for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan H. Res. 585, which I introduced along with my Republican colleague PETER KING.

This resolution reaffirms the United States' support for the Good Friday Agreement and other agreements in order to ensure a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

I want to start by thanking Chairman ENGEL for his support of this bipartisan resolution and for his decades-long commitment to bringing a lasting peace to the island of Ireland.

I also thank, again, my fellow Long Islander PETER KING, my lead Republican cosponsor of this resolution, who has been a staunch advocate for the Good Friday Agreement and the peace process for the length and breadth of his entire career in public service, over 30 years.

I thank all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and from the Congressional Friends of Ireland who cosponsored this resolution. Par-

ticularly, I thank my friend BILL KEATING, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment.

Mr. Speaker, the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 was a momentous achievement that marked the official end of The Troubles, a dark period in history that saw communities torn apart, thousands of people killed, and the island of Ireland literally divided by a hard border.

While the Good Friday Agreement has been largely responsible for the relative peace on the island of Ireland over the last two decades, recent events have created uncertainty and put the agreement at risk.

The collapse of the key power-sharing agreement in early 2017 has created a roadblock to continued progress on several important issues. Furthermore, the uncertainty created by Brexit has led to fears of instability and even the reintroduction of a hard border separating the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Next week, the people of the United Kingdom will go to the polls in a crucial election that will determine the outcome of Brexit. While it would be inappropriate for any American elected official to interfere in another country's electoral process, it is important that the United States makes our position clear on policies in which we have a vested interest.

This resolution reiterates the United States' full support for the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. It also urges the parties to continue their dialogues in the hope that the governing institutions created by the agreement can once again operate.

This resolution also makes it clear that as the United Kingdom continues to work through the Brexit process, all parties should ensure that the final outcome supports peace on the island of Ireland, as well as all the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement. In particular, this resolution expresses strong opposition to the reintroduction of a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. A return to a hard border, as Congressman BOYLE has repeatedly pointed out, could do immense damage and must be avoided at all costs.

I am pleased that in Brexit negotiations so far, all parties seem to agree that a hard border is unacceptable, and I urge continued adherence to this position.

Finally, this resolution makes it clear that should the United States and the United Kingdom pursue a bilateral trade agreement in the aftermath of Brexit, that any such deal will be contingent on meeting the obligations of the Good Friday Agreement.

As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which I would have jurisdiction over any such deal, I promise to ensure that this clause of this resolution is strictly enforced.

I know that my good friend Richie Neal, who has cosponsored this resolu-

tion and who serves not only as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee but also as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Friends of Ireland, feels exactly the same way.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to thank my good friend and constituent Marty Glennon for his years of activism in support of the peace process. His wisdom and support of this resolution as it made its way through the legislative process has been extremely valuable.

During these difficult times of often partisan and divided government, it is gratifying to see such overwhelming bipartisan support to ensure that Brexit and other political challenges do not threaten the Good Friday Agreement or the peace process.

When my great-grandfather, Jeremiah Holmes, first emigrated from the Emerald Isle in the late 1800s, leaving his home in Bweeng outside of Mallow in County Cork, little did he know that his son would go on to work for IBEW, putting lights on the Empire State Building. Little did he know that, one day, his great-grandson would be a Member of the House of Representatives and work to continue the United States' important role in preserving peace on the island of Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the passage of this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Mr. SUOZZI's resolution, again saying that it is in America's national interest to protect the Good Friday Agreement peace accords.

As was stated on the floor, the U.S. has equities in this agreement. The work of George Mitchell back in the 1990s was instrumental, according to all the parties involved, in terms of its success.

Since then, Congress has reaffirmed that involvement by appropriating funds for the Northern Ireland Trust Fund, which promotes reconciliation amongst the sectarian factions that unfortunately are still apart, to an unfortunate degree. Nonetheless, it has been a great success over the last 21 years.

As an undergraduate student studying in England in 1973, I visited Belfast and Enniskillen in those dark days of The Troubles, with 30,000 British soldiers patrolling the streets, bombings taking place, over 3,000 casualties.

Fast forward to today, I brought a trade mission from Connecticut over with an aerospace-focus. There is calm. There is a functioning government and system and rule of law that has transformed that island and, particularly, Northern Ireland's society. It is all about trying to protect that future with this resolution.

I would just end by saying this is in accordance with the people of Northern Ireland. When Brexit was voted on, the people of Northern Ireland voted almost 56 percent to remain in the European Union because they wanted to

make sure there was no risk of a hard border.

Again, the measure passed, including Great Britain's votes, but only by an even smaller margin of 51 percent. So this resolution is not just a sentimental expression by people here in the U.S. It is totally in accordance with what I think is the will and the wishes of the people of Northern Ireland.

I thank the sponsors on both sides of the aisle, in terms of making sure that this important diplomatic success for the 20th century, that the U.S. was an instrumental part of, will be protected.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my friends, Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. KING, for offering this resolution, and particularly Mr. SUOZZI for his leadership on this issue.

Like many Members who have spoken, I am proud of my own Irish heritage. It is a heritage that continues to this day. My sister lives in Ireland with her husband, Daithi, and their children, Siofra, Paddy, Ciaran, and Fiach. Those four children are part of the first generation alive that have been able to live with the guarantee of some sort of peace on that island.

It is important that we recognize that, as much as many of us have this familial connection to the people of Ireland, this question is so much bigger than that. This is really a question as to whether or not we are going to support a negotiated peace, which is an achievement not just of the people of the U.K. and the island of Ireland but as an achievement of the American people as well because we are a guarantor of that agreement.

It even goes beyond that, however. What message does it send to the people of the world, especially in those places that continue to have longstanding conflicts, if in the name of a hasty decision to implement Brexit, we were to set aside this achievement that says to the people of the world, not just the people of that island, not just to the people of the U.K., not just to the people of the U.S., but to the people of the world that peace can be achieved through face-to-face negotiation? That is a powerful message that goes beyond the direct impact that its reversal would have on the people of Ireland.

Finally, as my friends have said, nobody in the U.K. or in the U.K. Government should expect that the United States would pursue and willingly sign any U.S.-U.K. trade agreement that does not respect the principles that the Good Friday Agreement implemented.

So, the question is: Are we going to deal with this now? Will we ensure, as the people of the world want, that we protect this important peace? I think we should. The people of the world think we should.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my friends join me in supporting this really important resolution.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE).

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

The Good Friday Agreement was just the start of the creation of peace and reconciliation on the island of Ireland, not the end. Brokered by the United States, this agreement was one of our Nation's great foreign policy achievements of the 20th century.

This ongoing peace process requires our continued engagement, especially now as Brexit becomes a reality. We cannot and, let's be clear, will not stand by idly and watch the Good Friday Agreement weakened or destroyed.

I was proud to introduce a similar resolution back in January, and I am equally proud to cosponsor Mr. SUOZZI's bill, which reaffirms our bipartisan support in this Chamber for the Good Friday Agreement, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

□ 1715

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Once again, I thank Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. KING for introducing this good, bipartisan measure. The United Kingdom and European Union must safeguard Ireland's continued peace, safety, and prosperity as they work to secure a Brexit deal.

We must ensure Ireland continues toward a bright, strong future, never returning to the violence and the division of The Troubles. The Good Friday Agreement must be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all the Members to support this important resolution, 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 Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 585.

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.

UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT OF 2019

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 178) to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 178

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 "Uighur Intervention and Global Humanitarian Unified Response Act of 2019" or the "UIGHUR Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to direct United States resources to address human rights violations and abuses, including gross violations of human rights, by the People's Republic of China's mass surveillance and internment of over 1,000,000 Uighurs and other predominantly Turkic Muslim ethnic minorities in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

SEC. 3. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

In this Act, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

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

SEC. 4. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Government of the People's Republic of China has a long history of repressing Turkic Muslims, particularly Uighurs, in China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

(2) In May 2014, Chinese authorities launched their latest "Strike Hard against Violent Extremism" campaign, using wide-scale, internationally-linked threats of terrorism as a pretext to justify pervasive restrictions on and human rights violations of members of the ethnic minority communities of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. The August 2016 transfer of former Tibet Autonomous Region Party Secretary Chen Quanguo to become the Xinjiang Party Secretary prompted an acceleration in the crackdown across the region. Scholars, human rights organizations, journalists, and think tanks have provided ample evidence substantiating the establishment by Chinese authorities of "reeducation" camps. Since 2014, Chinese authorities have detained no less than 800,000 Uighurs, ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, and other ethnic minorities in these camps.

(3) Those detained in such facilities have described forced political indoctrination, torture, beatings, and food deprivation, as well as denial of religious, cultural, and linguistic freedoms, and confirmed that they were told by guards that the only way to secure release was to demonstrate sufficient political loyalty. Poor conditions and lack of medical treatment at such facilities appear to have contributed to the deaths of some detainees, including the elderly and infirm.

(4) Uighurs and ethnic Kazakhs, who have now obtained permanent residence or citizenship in other countries, attest to receiving threats and harassment from Chinese officials. At least five journalists for Radio Free Asia's Uighur service have publicly detailed abuses their family members in Xinjiang have endured in response to their work exposing abusive policies across the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

(5) In September 2018, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet noted in her first speech as High Commissioner the "deeply disturbing allegations of large-scale arbitrary detentions of Uighurs and other Muslim communities, in so-called re-education camps across Xinjiang".