

are especially pronounced. In late 2008, Malala, whose name this bill is in honor of, began making the case for education for women and girls in Pakistan. Despite objections from the Taliban, she continued to advocate this cause at great personal risk.

On October 9, 2012, Malala was on the way home when the Taliban ambushed her bus and shot her in the head. Remarkably, she survived. Instead of stopping her efforts, she continued to speak out, to stand up, and to step out, becoming a world-renowned figure in the fight for education.

As she said before the United Nations General Assembly: “So, let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism, let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons. . . . Education is the only solution.”

In October 2014, Malala became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education.

To this day Malala continues her work in this area.

Still, despite all the progress that has been made, only 32 percent of primary school-age girls are in school in Pakistan. After primary and secondary school, the rate of higher education enrollment for girls drops down to just 9 percent. Less than 6 percent of women 25 and older attain a bachelor’s degree or equivalent in Pakistan.

The U.S. Agency For International Development’s Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship program currently funds full tuition and stipends for financially strained Pakistani youth to complete a bachelor’s or master’s degree at partner universities across Pakistan. This legislation would ensure that at least half of those scholarship recipients go to Pakistani women. Empowering girls with access to education is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do for Pakistan and for the global community.

I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and Ranking Member MCCAUL of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their leadership. I also want to thank Congresswoman ANN WAGNER for her tremendous leadership and for her partnership on this legislation to support every girl’s right to an education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again want to thank my colleagues for their hard work to expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women under USAID’s Merit and Needs-Based Scholarship Program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to acknowledge the extraordinary work of USAID and their focus on education and how critical that is to the develop-

ment of communities all across the world and, importantly, that we fully fund USAID’s efforts, and also to recognize that this focus on education is a focus that continues to pay dividends.

I particularly want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman JEFFRIES in recognizing the particular responsibility that we have to invest in women and girls and what a transformative difference that makes in countries. Pakistan will be able to show the world the difference that it makes when you give women and girls an opportunity to realize their full potential. This act will ensure that at least half of those scholarships go to girls. It is a very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4508, 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. CICILLINE. 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.

TAIWAN ALLIES INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE (TAIPEI) ACT OF 2019

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1678) to express United States support for Taiwan’s diplomatic alliances around the world, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1678

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 “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-8) states that it is the policy of the United States “to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan”.

(2) The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 states that it is the policy of the United States “to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan”.

(3) Taiwan is a free, democratic, and prosperous nation of 23,000,000 people and an important contributor to peace and stability around the world.

(4) Since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen as President of Taiwan in 2016, the Government of the People’s Republic of China has intensified its efforts to pressure Taiwan.

(5) Since 2016, the Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, the Solomon Islands, and Kiribati have severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China.

(6) Taiwan currently maintains full diplomatic relations with 15 nations around the world.

(7) Taiwan’s unique relationship with the United States, Australia, India, Japan, and other countries are of significant benefit in strengthening Taiwan’s economy and preserving its international space.

(8) According to President Tsai Ing-wen, the severance of diplomatic ties with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China is “part of a series of diplomatic and military acts of coercion” by China.

(9) The Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409) states that—

(A) it is United States policy “to support the close economic, political, and security relationship between Taiwan and the United States”; and

(B) the President should—

(i) “conduct regular transfers of defense articles to Taiwan that are tailored to meet the existing and likely future threats from the People’s Republic of China, including supporting the efforts of Taiwan to develop and integrate asymmetric capabilities, as appropriate, including mobile, survivable, and cost-effective capabilities, into its military forces”; and

(ii) “encourage the travel of high-level United States officials to Taiwan, in accordance with the Taiwan Travel Act”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States and Taiwan have built a strong economic partnership, with the United States now Taiwan’s second largest trading partner and with Taiwan the 11th largest trading partner of the United States and a key destination for United States agricultural exports;

(2) strong United States-Taiwan economic relations have been a positive factor in stimulating economic growth and job creation for the people of both the United States and Taiwan; and

(3) the United States Trade Representative should consult with Congress on opportunities for further strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations between the United States and Taiwan.

SEC. 4. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES WITH REGARD TO TAIWAN’S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

It should be the policy of the United States—

(1) to advocate, as appropriate—

(A) for Taiwan’s membership in all international organizations in which statehood is not a requirement and in which the United States is also a participant; and

(B) for Taiwan to be granted observer status in other appropriate international organizations;

(2) to instruct, as appropriate, representatives of the United States Government in all organizations described in paragraph (1) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to advocate for Taiwan’s membership or observer status in such organizations; and

(3) for the President or the President’s designees to advocate, as appropriate, for Taiwan’s membership or observer status in all

organizations described in paragraph (1) as part of any relevant bilateral engagements between the United States and the People's Republic of China, including leader summits and the U.S.-China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue.

SEC. 5. STRENGTHENING OF TIES WITH TAIWAN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should—

(1) support Taiwan in strengthening its official diplomatic relationships as well as other partnerships with countries in the Indo-Pacific region and around the world;

(2) consider, in certain cases as appropriate and in alignment with United States interests, increasing its economic, security, and diplomatic engagement with nations that have demonstrably strengthened, enhanced, or upgraded relations with Taiwan; and

(3) consider, in certain cases as appropriate, in alignment with United States foreign policy interests and in consultation with Congress, altering its economic, security, and diplomatic engagement with nations that take serious or significant actions to undermine the security or prosperity of Taiwan.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of State shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the steps taken in accordance with subsection (a).

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. 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 S. 1678.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States shares a special relationship with Taiwan, rooted in a wide range of shared values. Yes, Taiwan is a vibrant democracy. That is the core of our friendship. At the same time, Taiwan is a model global citizen, making extraordinary contributions to global health, aviation safety, and other areas aimed at improving people's lives. It is this spirit of generosity and commitment to building a safer, more stable world that makes Taiwan such a valuable partner.

This stands in sharp relief to the record of the People's Republic of China. It is a comparison the Chinese Government doesn't seem to like, based on the PRC's constant attempt

to restrict Taiwan's ability to operate on the global stage, including efforts by Beijing to poach Taiwan's diplomatic partners.

The Chinese Government is a bully. They want to try to isolate Taiwan, and their tactics shouldn't go unanswered.

This bill, the TAIPEI Act, would help us provide a part of that answer. It calls on the administration to examine our policies toward countries that take steps that undermine Taiwan. It calls on the administration to take additional steps to ensure that Taiwan can participate in international organizations, and supports Taiwan's efforts to build stronger partnerships with other countries around the world.

However, perhaps the most important thing that we can do for Taiwan is to push the U.S. Trade Representative to look for new ways to ramp up bilateral trade and economic ties with Taiwan. Giving Taiwan economic alternatives will be critical for Taiwan's economic future and will benefit the United States.

This is good legislation, and it sends a strong and important message to our friends in Taiwan and to the Chinese Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of S. 1678, “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act of 2019,” 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 S. 1678.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning S. 1678, the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019. I appreciate

your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on S. 1678 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.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support my bill, the TAIPEI Act, which does three important things.

First, it endorses a U.S.-Taiwan free trade agreement.

Second, it supports Taiwan's membership in international institutions.

Third, finally, this bill helps Taiwan maintain partners and allies around the world.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a young missionary living in Taiwan in 1979, I could hardly imagine that the day would come when I could stand here and help return the favor of 40 years ago of their friendship and kindness to me as a young man living amongst them. My time in the region gave me a unique understanding of the history and the culture of these great people.

The TAIPEI Act strengthens our relationship with our partner, Taiwan, and it does this without spending a single U.S. tax dollar.

I thank Senator GARDNER, the Senate sponsor, for working with me on this bill, as well as the bipartisan group of 47 Representatives who cosponsored this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank my colleagues for their support on the TAIPEI Act. It will make a powerful statement for us to pass this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, when China works to intimidate and isolate a partner of the United States, one that shares our values, our commitment to democracy, our vision for engagement around, we should stand by our partner's side. That is what American leadership is supposed to look like.

That is exactly what we see happening with Taiwan, and if we really support the U.S.-Taiwan partnership, we need to help our partner get out

from under China's thumb. This bill would help to do that and would send a clear signal of the importance we place on the U.S.-China relationship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill so we can send it to the President's desk, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1678, 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. CICILLINE. 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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE THAT THE UNITED STATES CONDEMNS ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN GLOBALLY

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 230) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 230

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States condemns all forms of violence against children globally and recognizes the harmful impacts of violence against children.

Whereas violence against children can take many forms, including sexual violence, physical violence, emotional violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

Whereas, each year, more than 1,000,000,000 children worldwide are exposed to violence;

Whereas, each year, the global economic impact of physical, psychological, and sexual violence against children is estimated to be as high as \$7,000,000,000,000, which is 8 percent of global gross domestic product ("global GDP");

Whereas, around the world, an estimated 1 in 3 adolescent girls between 15 and 19 years of age, or 84,000,000 girls, have been victims of emotional, physical, or sexual violence, which is often perpetrated by individuals the girls know;

Whereas 1 in 5 girls in the developing world is said to be married before reaching 18 years of age and, of those girls, an estimated 1 in 9 is said to be married before reaching 15 years of age;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Children's Fund ("UNICEF"), if current child marriage rates continue, 120,000,000 girls, an average of 12,000,000 girls a year, will be married before their 18th birthday over the next decade;

Whereas 246,000,000 boys and girls experience school-related, gender-based violence each year;

Whereas children with disabilities reportedly are 3 to 4 times more likely to experience physical or sexual violence;

Whereas the tens of millions of children living outside of family care, including those living on the streets, working away from home, or in residential care, are particularly vulnerable to violence and abuse;

Whereas an estimated 152,000,000 children are involved in child labor and 4,300,000 children are subject to forced labor, including in situations of trafficking;

Whereas nearly half of the 68,500,000 individuals who are currently displaced by conflict and war around the world are children, and displacement exposes those children to increased risk of exploitation, violence, and abuse;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, from 2016 to 2017, verified cases of child recruitment, including forcible recruitment, and child participation in armed conflict—

(1) quadrupled in the Central African Republic;

(2) doubled in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

(3) persisted at alarming levels in Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen;

Whereas more than 10,000 children were killed or maimed in 2017 in armed conflict;

Whereas the risks of online abuse and exploitation of children is constantly growing, with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reviewing cases involving 25,000,000 child sexual abuse images in 2015, up from 450,000 in 2004;

Whereas unaddressed exposure to violence disrupts the development of critical brain architecture and other organ structures, leaving children at lifelong risk of disease and reduced potential;

Whereas studies show toxic stress relating to exposure to violent or dangerous environments becomes damaging to learning, behavior, and health across a lifespan;

Whereas violence against children can lead to negative health consequences, including injury, noncommunicable and communicable diseases, and poor maternal and child health outcomes;

Whereas all forms of violence in childhood have a significant negative impact on educational outcomes, including by reducing school attendance and increasing dropout rates, and can further limit access to the physical, mental health, psychosocial, and cognitive protections that safe educational settings provide;

Whereas decades of behavioral and social science research have demonstrated that building adaptive capacities, known as resilience, through stable and committed relationships with a supportive caregiver or other adult can lessen the harmful developmental effects of violence in children and youth;

Whereas, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United States invests 0.5 percent of official development assistance in programs that are designed to prevent and address violence against children and youth;

Whereas the United States, in coordination with public-private partnerships and other organizations, has endorsed the technical package called "INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children" (referred to in this preamble as "INSPIRE") put forth by the World Health Organization with substantial technical input from the United States Government, including from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas INSPIRE contains 7 evidence-based strategies to end violence against children that include—

(1) implementing and enforcing relevant laws;

(2) addressing harmful gender and other social norms;

(3) creating and sustaining safe communities;

(4) supporting parents and caregivers;

(5) improving household economic security to reduce violence in the home;

(6) improving access to health services, social welfare, and criminal justice support; and

(7) ensuring safe school environments that provide gender-equitable education and social-emotional learning and life skills training; and

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of State, the Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services each play a critical role in preventing and responding to violence against children and youth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States—

(1) condemns all forms of violence against children and youth globally, including physical, mental, and sexual violence, neglect, abuse, maltreatment, and exploitation; and

(2) should—

(A) develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated strategy built on evidence-based practices, including the technical package called "INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children" put forth by the World Health Organization; and

(B) adopt common metrics and indicators to monitor progress across Federal agencies to prevent, address, and end violence against children and youth globally, including harmful impacts of violence on the healthy development of children and the harmful economic impact of violence against children and youth globally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. 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. 230.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my colleague, for his hard work in bringing this resolution forward.

More than a billion children worldwide are exposed to violence each year. This can take the form of sexual violence, physical violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Adolescent girls are an especially vulnerable group. One in three girls between the ages of 15 and 17 experience violent acts and are often the victims of someone they know. Children with disabilities are reportedly three to four times