

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

likelier to experience physical or sexual abuse.

This violence has a lifetime impact on the health and well-being of a growing child and on their community. Children who experience violence have higher rates of anxiety and depression and are at greater risk of suicide. These traumatic events have a lasting impact, from reduced neurological functions, to poorer educational outcomes, to higher rates of early and child marriage.

Children should feel safe at home, in school, and in their communities. But it is in these places that most violence against children occurs, often at the hands of people they see every day. These abuses shape their lives forever.

Violence against children can be prevented. Implementing appropriate laws, reinforcing positive norms and values, creating safe environments, and providing support to children and their caregivers can help to address the risk of violence perpetrated against children.

This resolution puts the House on record, saying the United States condemns all forms of violence—including physical, mental, and sexual violence—against children.

In addition, the resolution urges the United States to adopt evidence-based strategies to combat violence against children as part of the World Health Organization's INSPIRE program, and it urges the administration to develop indicators and evaluation tools to monitor violence against young people globally across Federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, it is a good measure. I am glad to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2020.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I write concerning 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. This resolution was primarily referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and additionally to the Committees on Foreign Affairs. As a result of Leadership and Foreign Affairs having consulted with me concerning this bill generally, I agree to forgo formal consideration of the bill so the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Education and Labor takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing formal consideration of H. Res. 230, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and we will be appropriately consulted and involved as the resolution or similar legislation moves forward so we may address any remaining issue within our Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you support my request to name members of the Committee on Education and Labor to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate a response confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this mat-

ter be included in the committee report for H. Res. 230 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Very truly yours,
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2020.

Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,
Committee on Education and Labor,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCOTT: I am writing to you concerning 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. 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 Education and Labor under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 230, 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 Education and Labor 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. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to condemn all forms of violence against children around the world. I thank my colleagues, Congressman MCGOVERN and Congressman WILSON, for introducing this resolution and for their work to address this very important issue.

Mr. Speaker, more than 1 billion children around the world are victims of violence each year. Violence, exploitation, and abuse take many forms and disproportionately affect children in the most vulnerable populations, including those in refugee settlements and conflict zones.

These traumatic experiences have serious and long-lasting effects on children's psychological, physical, and social development. But the negative consequences of violence against children spread far beyond individuals and families. When children are prevented from reaching their full potential, nations suffer severe political and economic setbacks.

The United States has been a global leader in prioritizing programs to support the health and well-being of children around the world through our foreign assistance programs, but we can always do more.

This resolution encourages the development of a coordinated and evidence-based U.S. strategy to prevent, address, and end this abuse.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my friend, the author of this important resolution, a champion of human rights, and the co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time and for his leadership on programs that protect and address the needs of vulnerable children here at home and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be the author of this bipartisan resolution, along with Congressman JOE WILSON. And I am very proud of the 62 bipartisan cosponsors on this bill who represent the geographic and ideological diversity of this House.

I also thank the broad coalition of organizations that have worked so long in support of this resolution, in particular, ChildFund, Save the Children, World Vision, Futures Without Violence, and UNICEF USA.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter supporting this resolution from these groups and others.

JANUARY 31, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER HOYER, AND MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: As organizations committed to the protection and health of children around the globe, we kindly request that the House of Representatives approve on suspension of the rules H. Res. 230, a Congressional Resolution to End Violence Against Children Globally. Our community is proud of the strong bipartisan support that H. Res. 230 has received in Congress since it was introduced by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) on March 14, 2019. It is currently cosponsored by a bipartisan group of more than 60 Members of Congress and was previously approved by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on October 30, 2019.

Half of all children—one billion—are victims of violence each year and every five minutes, a child dies as a result. Forms of violence include, but are not limited to, human trafficking, child marriage, child labor, homicide, and online exploitation and sexual abuse. Early exposure to violence can impair children's brain development and damage their circulatory, reproductive, and immune systems, causing life-long risk of disease and reduced potential. The global economic cost of violence against children has been measured to be as high as \$7 trillion dollars or 8% of the world's GDP annually.

Fortunately, the United States Government is uniquely positioned to drive efforts to prevent and respond to violence against children. Federal government agencies like USAID, the State Department and the Department of Labor are already hard at work serving the world's children. However, these efforts are done without optimal coordination between agencies or an overarching, government-wide strategy.

The Congressional Resolution to End Violence Against Children Globally (H. Res. 230/S. Res. 112) recognizes the harmful impacts of violence and calls upon Congress to develop and implement a coordinated strategy based on proven practices. The resolution highlights the INSPIRE framework—seven key evidence-based strategies to end violence against children. INSPIRE, developed in collaboration with the CDC, USAID, and others, provides common metrics and indicators which can measure and monitor progress.

Over the years, the U.S. Government has demonstrated its commitment to the health and well-being of children. Providing safety and security for vulnerable children supports U.S. efforts to address violence and mitigate its impacts, therein bolstering other anti-poverty international development efforts, including education, health, and economic well-being. Building upon the work of the U.S. Government's Strategy on Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity, passage of H. Res. 230 would enhance existing government efforts to address pervasive violence against children.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of H. Res. 230. We urge you to support these one billion children and support passage of this important resolution.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics, ChildFund International, Futures Without Violence, Save the Children, UNICEF USA, World Vision, Bethany Christian Services, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Feed the Children, Food for the Hungry, Global Campaign for Education-US, GlobalPartnersUnited, Islamic Relief USA, RESULTS, RISE Institute, SPOON Foundation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, even though we have made great strides in identifying and addressing much of the violence that affects children and young people around the world, the sad reality is that violence against children is still pandemic.

Every 5 minutes, a child dies of violence. Half of all children—1 billion—are victims of violence. Homicide is among the top causes of death in adolescents.

That is not just a shame, Mr. Speaker. That is absolutely unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of those homicide victims are boys, and nearly one in five girls is sexually abused at least once in her life.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, violence can happen anywhere—in communities, in schools, in the home, in emergency and crisis situations, in churches, on the streets, online, and on the phone. It happens in the most idyllic-seeming neighborhood and in the midst of conflict and war.

Violence takes many forms: human trafficking, child marriage, child labor, murder, assault, beatings, psychological abuse, and online exploitation. And too much of the violence is based on gender.

We know that children who are exposed to violence at a very young age can be affected for life. Violence can impair brain development. It could damage the circulatory and immune systems.

Such violence can cause lifelong risks of being vulnerable to disease, ill-

ness, and disabilities. It can harm the ability to reproduce and engage in a full sexual life. It can severely affect the ability of a child to live up to their full potential.

Luckily, nations, healthcare providers, teachers, communities, and nongovernmental groups have come together to end violence against children. They have identified and agreed upon some solutions to ending violence against children.

We in this House should be proud that the CDC, USAID, World Health Organization, and others have developed what is called the INSPIRE package, which is a set of strategies to reduce and end violence against children everywhere.

So many of us in this Chamber are parents. I am the father of a son and a daughter. I know how we worry about our children's safety and well-being. This is true of all families everywhere. In many ways, each and every child is our child. We need to be concerned about their vulnerability, about their safety, about their care, and about their protection.

This resolution announces to the world that we are aware; that we do care; and, more importantly, that we want our health and aid agencies to take action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I thank my colleagues for their support.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank my colleagues for their hard work on this important cause.

The exploitation, violence, and abuse experienced by so many of the world's most vulnerable children cannot be tolerated. This resolution raises awareness of this horrific reality and urges the United States Government to develop and coordinate evidence-based strategies to address this issue.

The United States must continue to use its influence on the global stage to end violence against children wherever it exists.

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, I again thank Congressman MCGOVERN for his hard work on this measure. He has been a tireless advocate for children and protecting children around the world.

American leadership on this issue is absolutely vital. Ensuring the safety of our children today safeguards the future of our communities tomorrow.

Protecting children across the world must be an American foreign policy priority. We owe it to our younger generations everywhere the best shot possible at a full, healthy, and prosperous life.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent measure. I am pleased to be a cosponsor, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it. 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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 230, 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.

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 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) at 1 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:

Agree to H. Res. 387, and pass

H.R. 4508.

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.

CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS BY ARMED GROUPS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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. 387) condemning continued violence against civilians by armed groups in the Central African Republic and supporting efforts to achieve a lasting political solution to the conflict, 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 Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 7, not voting 44, as follows: