

This bill would give the executive branch the flexibility it needs to help secure the sale of American military equipment to our NATO allies, which will not only promote our national security interests but, also, promote American jobs and bring in revenue to the treasury over the life of the loan.

This legislation is long overdue, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this very important bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, 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, I again want to thank Congressman McCAUL for his hard work on this measure. He has been a tireless advocate on behalf of this issue.

NATO security is U.S. security, and the continued protection of every American is dependent upon a strong NATO alliance. Our allies selflessly demonstrated this commitment when they came to America's aid after the terrorist attack of 9/11, and it is important that the United States remain committed to our allies and our shared democratic values as well.

This is a good measure, and I am pleased to support it. I urge all Members to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2444, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1645

DIVIDED FAMILIES REUNIFICATION ACT

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1771) to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1771

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 "Divided Families Reunification Act".

SEC. 2. CONSULTATIONS ON REUNITING KOREAN AMERICANS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN NORTH KOREA.

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

(1) The division of the Korean Peninsula into South Korea and North Korea separated thousands of Koreans from family members.

(2) Since the signing of the Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea,

signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the "Korean War Armistice Agreement"), there has been little to no contact between Korean Americans and family members who remain in North Korea.

(3) North Korea and South Korea first agreed to reunions of divided families in 1985 and have since held 21 face-to-face reunions and multiple video link reunions.

(4) Those reunions have subsequently given approximately 24,500 Koreans the opportunity to briefly reunite with loved ones.

(5) The most recent family reunions between North Korea and South Korea took place in August 2018 and did not include any Korean Americans.

(6) The United States and North Korea do not maintain diplomatic relations and certain limitations exist on Korean Americans participating in face-to-face reunions.

(7) According to the most recent census, more than 1,700,000 people living in the United States are of Korean descent.

(8) The number of first generation Korean and Korean American family members divided from family members in North Korea is rapidly diminishing given the advanced age of those family members. More than 3,000 elderly South Koreans die each year without having been reunited with their family members.

(9) Many Korean Americans with family members in North Korea have not seen or communicated with those family members in more than 60 years.

(10) The inclusion of Korean American families in the reunion process would constitute a positive humanitarian gesture by the Government of North Korea.

(11) Section 1265 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 407) required the President to submit to Congress a report on "efforts, if any, of the United States Government to facilitate family reunions between United States citizens and their relatives in North Korea".

(12) The position of Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues has been vacant since January 2017, although the President is required to appoint a Senate-confirmed Special Envoy to fill this position in accordance with section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817).

(13) In the report of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 3081, 111th Congress (House Report 111-187), the Committee urged "the Special Representative on North Korea Policy, as the senior official handling North Korea issues, to prioritize the issues involving Korean divided families and to, if necessary, appoint a coordinator for such families".

(b) CONSULTATIONS.—

(1) CONSULTATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA.—The Secretary of State, or a designee of the Secretary, should consult with officials of South Korea, as appropriate, on potential opportunities to reunite Korean American families with family members in North Korea from which such Korean American families were divided after the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, including potential opportunities for video reunions for Korean Americans with such family members.

(2) CONSULTATIONS WITH KOREAN AMERICANS.—The Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues of the Department of State should regularly consult with representatives of Korean Americans who have family members in North Korea with respect to efforts to reunite families divided after the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, including potential opportunities for video reunions for Korean Americans with such family members.

(3) NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State to carry out consultations under this subsection.

(c) ADDITIONAL MATTER IN REPORT.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues, shall include in each report required under section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)), a description of the consultations described in subsection (b) conducted during the year preceding the submission of each report required under such section 107(d).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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 materials on H.R. 1771.

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.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking Ms. MENG for sponsoring this good bill to provide much-needed relief to Korean Americans who have been separated from their family members, many of them for decades now.

The Korean war tore families apart almost 70 years ago, and it is a humanitarian tragedy that many of them have been separated ever since. It is long past time for these families to be able to reunite. People who lost their parents when they were only toddlers are now senior citizens with children and grandchildren of their own.

The Divided Families Reunification Act requires the Department of State to consult with our South Korean allies, and the Korean-American community to make more of these reunions happen as soon as possible. Anyone who has seen footage of these reunions can attest to their profound significance—they demonstrate that the bonds of family cannot be severed by wars, by decades, by distance, or by government repression.

This bill also requires the Department of State to report to Congress on opportunities to facilitate more reunions by video connection, which is especially important to allow all Korean Americans, including those who might have difficulty with traveling long distances, a real opportunity to reconnect with their family members.

An important role in executing this humanitarian policy is the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights issues. It is deeply concerning that the Trump administration has left this position vacant for over 2 years, since January 2017. Human rights in North Korea remains a bipartisan priority for this Congress, but if we are going to effectively advance these policies, we

need to make sure that we have the people in place to execute them.

Mr. Speaker, the Divided Families Reunification Act is an excellent, bipartisan bill to continue United States' efforts to reunite families torn apart by the Korean war. I hope all Members will join me in supporting it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Divided Families Reunification Act introduced by Representative MENG.

The sad legacy of the Korean war is with us even today, almost 70 years after the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. The Korean Peninsula remains divided between a nation of free people and a nation that subjects its people to tyranny.

The Kim regime continues to threaten the peace and security of the region and of the world. Families remain broken, from those still fighting to bring their loved ones' remains home, to those with family members trapped in North Korea.

Our vibrant Korean-American community feels this legacy strongly, so I commend Congresswoman MENG for her bill, which directs the State Department to consult with South Korea and Korean Americans on opportunities to reunite families separated by the DMZ.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill to support the thousands of Korean Americans whose families were torn apart by the Korean war.

One of the most important tasks carried out by the State Department is the reunion of Americans with their family members, and this act would focus that good work on a group of people who have waited decades for that chance.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the same.

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 pass the bill, H.R. 1771, 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. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and:

Agree to H. Res. 410; and

Pass H.R. 1771.

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.

ENCOURAGING REUNIONS OF DIVIDED KOREAN-AMERICAN FAMILIES

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. 410) encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 0, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 91]

YEAS—391

Abraham	Blumenauer	Chu, Judy	Davidson (OH)	Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)
Adams	Blunt Rochester	Cicilline	Davis (CA)	Kelly (MS)	Quigley
Aderholt	Bonamici	Cisneros	Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Raskin
Aguilar	Bost	Clark (MA)	Dean	Khanna	Reschenthaler
Allen	Brady	Clarke (NY)	DeGette	Kildee	Rice (NY)
Allred	Brindisi	Clay	DeLauro	Kilmer	Rice (SC)
Amash	Brooks (AL)	Cleaver	DelBene	Kim	Richmond
Amodei	Brown (MD)	Cline	Delgado	Kind	Roby
Armstrong	Buchanan	Cloud	Demings	King (IA)	Rodgers (WA)
Arrington	Buck	Clyburn	DeSaulnier	King (NY)	Roe, David P.
Axne	Buchshon	Cohen	DesJarlais	Kinzinger	Rogers (AL)
Babin	Budd	Cole	Deutch	Kirkpatrick	Rogers (KY)
Bacon	Burchett	Comer	Diaz-Balart	Krishnamoorthi	Rose (NY)
Baird	Burgess	Conaway	Dingell	Kuster (NH)	Rose, John W.
Balderson	Bustos	Connolly	Doggett	Kustoff (TN)	Rouda
Banks	Byrne	Cooper	Doyle, Michael	LaHood	Rouzer
Barr	Calvert	Correa	F.	LaMalfa	Roy
Barragán	Carbajal	Costa	Duncan	Lamb	Roybal-Allard
Bass	Cardenas	Courtney	Dunn	Lamborn	Ruiz
Beatty	Carson (IN)	Cox (CA)	Emmer	Langevin	Ruppersberger
Bera	Carter (GA)	Craig	Engel	Larsen (WA)	Rutherford
Bergman	Carter (TX)	Crawford	Escobar	Larson (CT)	Ryan
Beyer	Carter (TX)	Crawford	Eshoo	Latta	Sánchez
Biggs	Case	Crenshaw	Española	Lawson (FL)	Sarbanes
Bilirakis	Casten (IL)	Crow	Estes	Lee (CA)	Scalise
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Cuellar	Evans	Lee (NV)	Scanlon
Bishop (NC)	Castro (TX)	Cunningham	Ferguson	Lesko	Schakowsky
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Davids (KS)	Finkenauer	Levin (CA)	Schiff
			Fitzpatrick	Levin (MI)	Schneider
			Fleischmann	Lipinski	Schrader
			Fletcher	Loeb	Schrier
			Flores	Lofgren	Schweikert
			Foster	Long	Scott (VA)
			Fox (NC)	Loudermilk	Scott, Austin
			Frankel	Lowenthal	Scott, David
			Fudge	Lowey	Sensenbrenner
			Fulcher	Lucas	Serrano
			Gabbard	Luetkemeyer	Sewell (AL)
			Gallagher	Lujan	Shalala
			Gallego	Luria	Sherman
			Garamendi	Lynch	Sherrill
			Garcia (IL)	Malinowski	Shimkus
			Garcia (TX)	Maloney	Sires
			Gianforte	Carolyn B.	Slotkin
			Gibbs	Maloney, Sean	Smith (MO)
			Gohmert	Marchant	Smith (NE)
			Golden	Marshall	Smith (NJ)
			Gomez	Massie	Smith (WA)
			Gonzalez (OH)	Mast	Smucker
			Gonzalez (TX)	Matsui	Soto
			Gooden	McAdams	Spanberger
			Gottheimer	McBath	Spano
			Granger	McCarthy	Stanton
			Graves (LA)	McCaul	Staubert
			Graves (MO)	McClintock	Stefanik
			Green (TN)	McCollum	Steil
			Green, Al (TX)	McGovern	Steube
			Griffith	McHenry	Stevens
			Grothman	McKinley	Stivers
			Guest	McNerney	Suozy
			Guthrie	Meeks	Swalwell (CA)
			Haaland	Meng	Takano
			Hagedorn	Meuser	Taylor
			Harder (CA)	Miller	Thompson (CA)
			Harris	Mitchell	Thompson (PA)
			Hartzler	Moolenaar	Thornberry
			Hastings	Mooney (WV)	Timmons
			Hayes	Morelle	Tipton
			Heck	Mucarsel-Powell	Tlaib
			Hern, Kevin	Murphy (FL)	Tonko
			Herrera Beutler	Murphy (NC)	Torres (CA)
			Hice (GA)	Nadler	Torres Small
			Higgins (LA)	Napolitano	(NM)
			Higgins (NY)	Neal	Trahan
			Hill (AR)	Neguse	Trone
			Himes	Norcross	Turner
			Hollingsworth	Norman	Underwood
			Horn, Kendra S.	Nunes	Upton
			Horsford	O'Halleran	Van Drew
			Houlahan	Ocasio-Cortez	Vargas
			Hoyer	Olson	Veasey
			Hudson	Omar	Vela
			Huffman	Pallone	Velázquez
			Huizenga	Palmer	Vislousky
			Hurd (TX)	Panetta	Wagner
			Jayapal	Pappas	Walberg
			Jeffries	Pascrell	Walden
			Johnson (GA)	Payne	Walker
			Johnson (LA)	Pence	Walorski
			Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter	Waltz
			Johnson (SD)	Perry	Wasserman
			Johnson (TX)	Peters	Schultz
			Jordan	Peterson	Waters
			Joyce (OH)	Phillips	Watkins
			Joyce (PA)	Pingree	Watson Coleman
			Kaptur	Pocan	Weber (TX)
			Katko	Porter	Webster (FL)
			Keating	Posey	Welch
			Keller	Pressley	Wenstrup