

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JACOBS).

Mr. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, let's work towards ending our foreign dependence on the Communist regime and hold them accountable for the lives of every individual their lies have killed.

I look forward to working with the Senate to refine and improve this bill and endorse the strong measures it will take to hold the Chinese regime accountable.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, legislation that bans products of forced labor by Uyghurs to the United States.

I want to acknowledge and thank Chairman MCGOVERN, Chairman BLUMENAUER, Ranking Member McCAUL, Mr. SMITH, and others who have led this effort.

As members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, we work every day to ensure that America stands up for freedom around the world, and we take action to promote freedom in human rights around the globe. So, in that vein, we must ensure that the exploitation of the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities does not continue.

Most Americans would be shocked to learn that, for years, Uyghurs have been interned, tortured, interrogated, and brutally forced into labor by the Chinese Government, and then products they manufacture make their way into the U.S. market. This bill will stop these practices.

We must pass this legislation to crack down on China's abhorrent human rights practices. We must continue to be a force for democratic values and human rights in our own country and around the world.

This is an example of working together in a bipartisan way to make it clear that the United States of America will not remain silent while these gross human rights violations continue, and we will do all that we can to bring the attention of the world to the important practices of the Chinese Communist Government by passing these two pieces of legislation.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, last week our subcommittee held a hearing on the Chinese Government's use of forced labor for the production of all kinds of goods through a concerted program of oppression and coerced assimilation of China's Uyghur population.

You have heard the horrible details that we had expressed in our committee. We have had a long history of grappling with the depravity of forced labor and ensuring that goods produced under such conditions do not eventually make their way into our grocery stores and shopping malls across the country.

We passed a law a century ago prohibiting importation of such goods. But, unfortunately, the ban—founded on principles of morality, human rights, worker rights, as well principles of fair competition—has, to be charitable, a history of spotty implementation.

We don't pretend that it is going to be easy to stop this. Global supply chains now are complex and interrelated. It is going to require the concerted efforts of us all. But we should not allow complex supply chains to justify the chains of oppression on the Uyghur populations now.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the aftermath of the passage of this legislation, that we work to actually implement it, we work with the expressions that have been positive from the private sector and NGOs, and other partners, to make sure that it is real. It is going to require concerted effort. It is going to require some displacement. We may even pay a dime or two more for a pair of socks or a T-shirt.

But I do think not being complicit with this horrific oppression of over a million—and I agree with Mr. SMITH, it may well be more than that. It is time for us to make sure that we take a stand. Make it real.

I deeply appreciate the sentiment on both sides of the aisle that we are committed to stop it now. In an era of, shall we say, a little conflict, this could be a bright spot for us going forward.

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, in recent years, the world has stood by idly as the Chinese Communist Party rounded up more than a million—probably a lot more than that—ethnic minorities into concentration camps where they are tortured, brainwashed, and forced into labor. This is all part of a deliberate program by the CCP to wipe out their ethnic identity, their religion, their culture, anything that might compete with the Communist Party for their loyalties and affection.

We have a moral duty today to speak out against these horrifying crimes against humanity and against the Uyghurs and, as the Speaker mentioned, against the Tibetans and Christians as well, who are persecuted in the Chinese Communist regime.

But we have an even greater duty to avoid funding this genocide by paying for slave labor in Xinjiang. There can no longer be business as usual with China.

Madam Speaker, the world is watching. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

□ 1245

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purposes of closing.

Madam Speaker, this is a matter of whether the United States, as it has for generations, will remain a north star around the world when it comes to things like freedom, human rights, democracy, and rooting out corruption.

This is an issue of human rights. Millions of people are being subjugated right now by the Chinese Government. And despite international contamination, atrocities continue in Xinjiang, and China shows no signs of changing course, including recently releasing a white paper defending these "vocational training centers."

The United States should use its unique position in the global trading system to advance workers' rights and the freedom and dignity of all people, and to signal other like-minded countries to act accordingly.

I am very pleased to support this measure. I am glad that it has strong bipartisan support, and I urge all the Members to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6210, 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. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to my nomination to the House Committee on Ways and Means, I am writing to formally offer my resignation from both the House Committee on Judiciary and House Committee on Homeland Security. Thank you.

Sincerely,

CEDRIC L. RICHMOND.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY ACT OF 2020

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2166) to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2166

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 “Global Health Security Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In December 2009, President Obama released the National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats, which listed as one of seven objectives “Promote global health security: Increase the availability of and access to knowledge and products of the life sciences that can help reduce the impact from outbreaks of infectious disease whether of natural, accidental, or deliberate origin”.

(2) In February 2014, the United States and nearly 30 other nations launched the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) to address several high-priority, global infectious disease threats. The GHSA is a multi-faceted, multi-country initiative intended to accelerate partner countries’ measurable capabilities to achieve specific targets to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats, whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental.

(3) In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include specific reference to the importance of global health security as part of SDG 3 “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” as follows: “strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks”.

(4) On November 4, 2016, President Obama signed Executive Order 13747, “Advancing the Global Health Security Agenda to Achieve a World Safe and Secure from Infectious Disease Threats”.

(5) In October 2017 at the GHSA Ministerial Meeting in Uganda, the United States and more than 40 GHSA member countries supported the “Kampala Declaration” to extend the GHSA for an additional 5 years to 2024.

(6) In December 2017, President Trump released the National Security Strategy, which includes the priority action: “Detect and contain biotreats at their source: We will work with other countries to detect and mitigate outbreaks early to prevent the spread of disease. We will encourage other countries to invest in basic health care systems and to strengthen global health security across the intersection of human and animal health to prevent infectious disease outbreaks”.

(7) In September 2018, President Trump released the National Biodefense Strategy, which includes objectives to “strengthen global health security capacities to prevent local bioincidents from becoming

epidemics”, and “strengthen international preparedness to support international response and recovery capabilities”.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) promote global health security as a core national security interest;

(2) advance the aims of the Global Health Security Agenda;

(3) collaborate with other countries to detect and mitigate outbreaks early to prevent the spread of disease;

(4) encourage other countries to invest in basic resilient and sustainable health care systems; and

(5) strengthen global health security across the intersection of human and animal health to prevent infectious disease outbreaks and combat the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance.

SEC. 4. GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA INTERAGENCY REVIEW COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”) to perform the general responsibilities described in subsection (c) and the specific roles and responsibilities described in subsection (e).

(b) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not less than four times per year to advance its mission and fulfill its responsibilities.

(c) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Council shall be responsible for the following activities:

(1) Provide policy-level recommendations to participating agencies on Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) goals, objectives, and implementation.

(2) Facilitate interagency, multi-sectoral engagement to carry out GHSA implementation.

(3) Provide a forum for raising and working to resolve interagency disagreements concerning the GHSA.

(4)(A) Review the progress toward and work to resolve challenges in achieving United States commitments under the GHSA, including commitments to assist other countries in achieving the GHSA targets.

(B) The Council shall consider, among other issues, the following:

(i) The status of United States financial commitments to the GHSA in the context of commitments by other donors, and the contributions of partner countries to achieve the GHSA targets.

(ii) The progress toward the milestones outlined in GHSA national plans for those countries where the United States Government has committed to assist in implementing the GHSA and in annual work-plans outlining agency priorities for implementing the GHSA.

(iii) The external evaluations of United States and partner country capabilities to address infectious disease threats, including the ability to achieve the targets outlined within the WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool, as well as gaps identified by such external evaluations.

(d) PARTICIPATION.—The Council shall consist of representatives, serving at the Assistant Secretary level or higher, from the following agencies:

(1) The Department of State.

(2) The Department of Defense.

(3) The Department of Justice.

(4) The Department of Agriculture.

(5) The Department of Health and Human Services.

(6) The Department of Labor.

(7) The Department of Homeland Security.

(8) The Office of Management and Budget.

(9) The United States Agency for International Development.

(10) The Environmental Protection Agency.

(11) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(12) The Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(13) The National Institutes of Health.

(14) The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

(15) Such other agencies as the Council determines to be appropriate.

(e) SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of agencies described in subsection (d) shall—

(A) make the GHSA and its implementation a high priority within their respective agencies, and include GHSA-related activities within their respective agencies’ strategic planning and budget processes;

(B) designate a senior-level official to be responsible for the implementation of this Act;

(C) designate, in accordance with subsection (d), an appropriate representative at the Assistant Secretary level or higher to participate on the Council;

(D) keep the Council apprised of GHSA-related activities undertaken within their respective agencies;

(E) maintain responsibility for agency-related programmatic functions in coordination with host governments, country teams, and GHSA in-country teams, and in conjunction with other relevant agencies;

(F) coordinate with other agencies that are identified in this section to satisfy programmatic goals, and further facilitate coordination of country teams, implementers, and donors in host countries; and

(G) coordinate across GHSA national plans and with GHSA partners to which the United States is providing assistance.

(2) ADDITIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the roles and responsibilities described in paragraph (1), the heads of agencies described in subsection (d) shall carry out their respective roles and responsibilities described in subsections (b) through (i) of section 3 of Executive Order 13747 (81 Fed. Reg. 78701; relating to Advancing the Global Health Security Agenda to Achieve a World Safe and Secure from Infectious Disease Threats), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. UNITED STATES COORDINATOR FOR GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint an individual to the position of United States Coordinator for Global Health Security, who shall be responsible for the coordination of the interagency process for responding to global health security emergencies. As appropriate, the designee shall coordinate with the President’s Special Coordinator for International Disaster Assistance.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not less frequently than twice each year, the employee designated under this section shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the responsibilities and activities of the individual under this section.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given such term in section 8 of the Global Health Security Act of 2019.

SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that, given the complex and multisectoral nature of global health threats to the United States, the President—

(1) should consider appointing an individual with significant background and expertise in public health or emergency response management to the position of United