

I would like to thank His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama for his dedication to the Tibetan people.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 697 is a strong measure that encourages the continuation of close engagement between the United States and Tibet. I therefore urge Members to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my friend, the gentleman from Florida, in support of this important resolution.

We know as a fact, confirmed by Reuters, the New York Post, and many other news outlets, that the Chinese Communist Party has recently forced 500,000 Tibetans into labor camps—500,000.

Through these camps the CCP wishes to sinicize the Tibetan people and destroy their religious and cultural heritage and national identity.

If you asked the General Secretary Xi Jinping why his country continues to undermine the national identity of the Tibetan people, he would tell you that his party's initiative is simply part of a poverty alleviation program wherein the CCP hopes to move surplus rural labor to other parts of the country. It is absurd, and it is outrageous. The fact that a foreign leader could believe that this kind of public policy is morally acceptable is beyond me, and it is beyond the civilized world. We have heard similar explanations before.

We know what these so-called poverty alleviation programs are really about: Xi Jinping desperately wants to crush the spirits of those who are living under his dictatorial regime. He wants to indoctrinate people in those camps and ruthlessly marginalize their identities.

Mr. Speaker, you don't need camps for people who are seeking to do better in their life; you just give them the opportunity, and they will do it. They don't need to go to camp to do that.

He will fail in his effort. Make no mistake about it. He will fail spectacularly in his effort to quash the hopes of millions of Tibetans who dare to dream and fight for a free nation. One of the reasons he will fail is because the United States is with the people of Tibet.

Our Tibetan friends have long since recognized the significance of the genuine autonomy of Tibet, and today I am proud to join them.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 697 is a strong measure that encourages the continuation of close engagement between the United States and Tibet.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, since 1959, the U.S. Congress, on a bicameral, bipartisan basis, has remained committed to strength-

ening the friendship between the U.S. and the Tibetan people.

There are over 31,000 individuals of Tibetan descent living in North America, and our people share similar values of freedom and understanding.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has dedicated himself to three principles: the promotion of human values, the promotion of religious harmony, and the preservation of Tibetan culture and religion.

I would like to thank the Dalai Lama for his vital contributions to the Tibetan people and the world.

As Mr. PERRY said, the Communist Party knows they cannot survive with free thought, and that is what religion does for people around the world. They put a deity or a higher power above them, whereas, in China, the highest power that can be achieved is the Communist Party, and therefore it will not survive.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, 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 York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 697, 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.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "A resolution affirming the significance of the advocacy for genuine autonomy for Tibetans in the People's Republic of China and the work His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has done to promote global peace, harmony, and understanding."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING AMERICA FROM EPIDEMICS ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6334) to authorize United States participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6334

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 "Securing America From Epidemics Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Due to increasing population and population density, human mobility, and ecological change, emerging infectious diseases pose a real and growing threat to global health security.

(2) While vaccines can be the most effective tools to protect against infectious disease, the absence of vaccines for a new or

emerging infectious disease with epidemic potential is a major health security threat globally, posing catastrophic potential human and economic costs.

(3) The 1918 influenza pandemic infected 500,000,000 people, or about one-third of the world's population at the time, and killed 50,000,000 people—more than died in the First World War.

(4) The economic cost of an outbreak can be devastating. The estimated global cost today, should an outbreak of the scale of the 1918 influenza pandemic strike, is 5 percent of global gross domestic product.

(5) Even regional outbreaks can have enormous human costs and substantially disrupt the global economy and cripple regional economies. The 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa killed more than 11,000 and cost \$2,800,000,000 in losses in the affected countries alone.

(6) The ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak reflects the pressing need for quick and effective vaccine and countermeasure development.

(7) While the need for vaccines to address emerging epidemic threats is acute, markets to drive the necessary development of vaccines to address them—a complex and expensive undertaking—are very often critically absent. Also absent are mechanisms to ensure access to those vaccines by those who need them when they need them.

(8) To address this global vulnerability and the deficit of political commitment, institutional capacity, and funding, in 2017, several countries and private partners launched the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). CEPI's mission is to stimulate, finance, and coordinate development of vaccines for high-priority, epidemic-potential threats in cases where traditional markets do not exist or cannot create sufficient demand.

(9) Through funding of partnerships, CEPI seeks to bring priority vaccine candidates through the end of phase II clinical trials, as well as support vaccine platforms that can be rapidly deployed against emerging pathogens.

(10) CEPI has funded multiple partners to develop vaccine candidates against the novel coronavirus, responding to this urgent, global requirement.

(11) Support for and participation in CEPI is an important part of the United States own health security and biodefense and is in the national interest, complementing the work of many Federal agencies and providing significant value through global partnership and burden-sharing.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States is hereby authorized to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

(b) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—The Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development is authorized to designate an employee to serve on the Investors Council of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations as a representative of the United States.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) The United States planned contributions to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the mechanisms for United States participation in such Coalition.

(2) The manner and extent to which the United States shall participate in the governance of the Coalition.

(3) How participation in the Coalition supports relevant United States Government strategies and programs in health security and biodefense, to include—

(A) the Global Health Security Strategy required by section 7058(c)(3) of division K of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141);

(B) the applicable revision of the National Biodefense Strategy required by section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104); and

(C) any other relevant decision-making process for policy, planning, and spending in global health security, biodefense, or vaccine and medical countermeasures research and development.

(d) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS.—Amounts authorized to be appropriated under chapters 1 and 10 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) are authorized to be made available for United States contributions to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

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

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

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 6334.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are in a time of crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has devastated our Nation: over 200,000 Americans have died, our economy is in shambles, our lives have been turned upside down.

The virus continues to spread and worsen. Part of this is because there had not been the steps taken that we know are needed to protect the American people and address this virus head-on.

There is a clear road map ahead on how to beat this. We need to establish a robust contact tracing and testing system and flatten the curve by increasing mask wearing and social distancing, all while we develop a safe and effective vaccine.

We have heard some good news over the past few days about some safe and effective vaccines. Over the past weeks we have seen this encouraging news, and two, in particular, are showing real promise. To further develop, produce and distribute vaccines, we need to work with our partners around the

world and harness the resources of the government’s multilateral organizations, public health experts, and the private sector.

We are not satisfied—I am not satisfied—with what has been done so far. I am glad that we are going back to the World Health Organization and will reboot our coordination with countries around the world. We cannot go this alone. This is a worldwide pandemic, and we need to work with all the other countries to defeat it head-on.

This bill puts us on the right track to do just that. Mr. BERA’s Securing America from Epidemics Act would allow the United States to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a public-private partnership to speed up vaccine development for infectious diseases like COVID-19 and Ebola.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good measure that would put our country in a stronger position to respond to the coronavirus and future pandemics. I am proud to support it and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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 Securing America from Epidemics Act.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman Dr. BERA, for introducing this bill—and I co-introduced it—for his work to address this important issue.

COVID-19 has shown that pandemics know no borders and that the United States must be prepared to respond to disease outbreaks around the world. This bill authorizes the United States to participate in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, an alliance of countries and private partners that are financing and coordinating the development of new vaccines for infectious diseases. These are the emerging diseases that they are studying so that we are prepared for them.

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In addition to COVID-19, CEPI has developed a list of priority diseases with epidemic potential, including viruses that cause Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, MERS. By leveraging contributions from member states with expertise and funding by private partners, CEPI seeks to develop vaccines before the disease outbreak occurs.

CEPI estimates that COVID-19 could cost the global economy \$4.1 trillion, or close to 5 percent of global GDP.

Of course, the impact of viruses like COVID-19 is not just measured in the disruption of economic stability in nations around the world, but also, unfortunately, in the lives lost.

Developing vaccines and treatments for emerging infectious diseases is not just an issue of individual health but of national security. Our committee has worked together on many pieces of legislation in response to COVID-19. The

SAFE Act is another example of this bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues who believe we must do all we can to prevent another pandemic like COVID-19 from emerging in the future to support this legislation, as it is a critical component to that effort.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), author of this important bill, the chair of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his leadership and support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan measure, H.R. 6334, the Securing America From Epidemics, or SAFE Act. This legislation, which I introduced alongside my friend, Congressman TED YOHO, would authorize U.S. participation in the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, or CEPI.

CEPI was created in the aftermath of the 2015 West Africa Ebola epidemic. Its founders understood that due to factors like climate change, overcrowding, malnutrition, and the proximity of people living next to animals, the world would see deadly epidemics more and more frequently. The most effective countermeasures to these epidemics are vaccines.

CEPI sought to fund vaccines for several pathogens like MERS that could potentially explode into pandemics. And it sought to help develop universal vaccine platform technologies that could be adapted to quickly address emerging outbreaks. The individuals in CEPI could not have predicted the current COVID-19 pandemic, but they knew it was just a matter of time until we would see something like this.

Since the start of the pandemic, CEPI has devoted major funding to nine vaccine candidates to defeat COVID-19. In January of this year, CEPI was one of the first investors in Moderna, providing catalytic funding to spur additional research and development. That early funding has paid off. It looks like Moderna’s Phase 3 trials have been successful.

CEPI’s early investment in Moderna is a reminder of the critical role CEPI plays and will continue to play: investing in smaller companies to boost their capacity, so that larger players and actors can help scale and bring those vaccines to market. This is what happened with Moderna and may happen with other vaccine candidates.

USAID recently announced the collaboration with CEPI, funding \$20 million over 5 years to combat noncoronavirus priority diseases, like Lassa fever and Ebola, but we need to do more. By authorizing U.S. participation in CEPI, this bill will enable the United States to firmly claim a seat at CEPI’s table, shape its priorities and governance, and allow Congress to provide contributions to the organization.

U.S. participation in CEPI was one of the recommendations of the final report issued nearly a year ago at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Commission on Strengthening America's Health Security. It was prescient in its recommendations, and I am proud to have served as a commissioner. We knew then that the next epidemic or pandemic was around the corner. It is here with us now, but it will not be the last one.

We need to be a full and active participant in CEPI's work. By working through organizations like CEPI to develop new vaccine technologies, we will ensure the world is far more ready for the next pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. YOHO and all the cosponsors of this important legislation, as well as the work that the Committee on Foreign Affairs staff, like Katy Crosby, and my own staff, like Ryan Uyehara, did to bring this legislation to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure and call on the Senate to pass it as well.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I once again thank Representative BERA for his work on this important legislation. The U.S. international community and the private sector must continue to work together to develop the tools we need in response to emerging infectious diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank Mr. BERA for his leadership and hard work on this legislation that everyone should support, 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 York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6334, 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.

REAFFIRMING VITAL ROLE OF UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 349) reaffirming the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 349

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas for more than the past 70 years, the partnership between the United States and Japan has played a vital role in ensuring peace, stability, and economic development in Asia and beyond;

Whereas the United States and Japan are deeply committed to the common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and free market economies;

Whereas the current United States-Japan alliance, forged over six decades ago with the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, is the cornerstone for stability and prosperity of Japan and for the Indo-Pacific region, and plays a key role in global peace and stability;

Whereas the United States and Japan are indispensable partners in combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, improving global health, countering human trafficking and promoting human rights, assisting the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide, and contributing to global economic development;

Whereas the United States and Japan have worked closely during the COVID-19 pandemic to safely repatriate our respective citizens home and to strengthen our collaboration on global health research and development through partnerships such as the United States-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program;

Whereas the United States and Japan are partnering to promote infrastructure investments around the Indo-Pacific that ensure openness, transparency, economic efficiency, and debt sustainability, including through the United States-Japan Mekong Power partnership and the United States-Japan Strategic Energy Partnership;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and Australia announced in November 2019 the establishment of a Blue Dot Network that will promote transparent and quality infrastructure projects that align with the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment;

Whereas the alliance is a testament to the ability of great nations to overcome the past and jointly work to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas approximately 54,000 United States troops are stationed in Japan and the Japanese Government makes substantial financial commitments to the maintenance of United States forces in Japan under the Special Measures Agreement and other contributions that directly support operational readiness of United States forces in Japan;

Whereas the current United States-Japan Special Measures Agreement is set to expire in March 2021, and the two countries launched working-level negotiations on a new cost-sharing agreement in October 2020;

Whereas, in October 2020, the United States, Australia, India, and Japan continued their ongoing cooperation through the quad framework and discussed collective efforts to collaborate on COVID-19 pandemic response, maritime security, cybersecurity, quality infrastructure, counterterrorism, and other areas;

Whereas our two countries, coming from different cultural backgrounds, have created an active and dynamic relationship beneficial to both peoples; and

Whereas cultural and people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan are long-standing and deep, as exemplified by the gift of the beautiful cherry trees that dot our nation's capital from the People of Japan to the People of the United States in 1912, signifying the affection and respect between the two nations: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the vital role of the United States-Japan alliance in promoting peace,

stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(2) supports the conclusion of an equitable, new United States-Japan Special Measures Agreement that is negotiated based on our shared national interests, prior to the expiration of the current agreement;

(3) supports cooperation between the United States, Japan, and other like-minded partners to promote high-quality infrastructure, energy, and development projects that are open, transparent, and sustainable;

(4) underscores the importance of the close people-to-people and cultural ties between our two nations;

(5) calls for the continued robust cooperation between the United States and Japan in the global fight against COVID-19, and supports the Japanese Government's commitment to hosting the Olympic Games in 2021;

(6) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and Japan;

(7) reaffirms the vital role of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue as a platform to facilitate further collaboration between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan on matters related to protecting freedom of navigation and promoting democratic values in the Indo-Pacific; and

(8) calls for the continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in addressing global challenges that threaten the security of people everywhere in the "Reiwa" era of Japan, which the Japanese Government translates as "beautiful harmony".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material on H. Res. 349, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CASTRO for authoring this measure reaffirming our partnership with Japan, a longstanding U.S. ally and an indispensable partner for advancing peace, stability, and prosperity in Asia and beyond.

The United States and Japan share a commitment to upholding human rights, the rule of law, and democratic values and freedoms. In challenging times like these, it is all the more important that we work with like-minded friends to defend and promote our shared interests.

One of those shared priorities is strengthening our alliances. This is more important than ever as China's behavior becomes increasingly aggressive and Kim Jong-un in North Korea remains unchecked in his challenge to regional security and stability.

H. Res. 349 expresses the bipartisan support in Congress for an equitable agreement with Japan regarding Host Nation Support for our troops before