

H.R. 5490. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the “Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5712. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street, in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the “Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the “Charlesetta Reece Allen Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6073. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6249. An act to provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the “Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7192. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the “Dr. William I. ‘Bill’ Kott Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7199. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the “Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office”.

H.R. 7423. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2546. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the “Jim Kolbe Memorial Post Office”.

S. 3946. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the “Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office”.

S. 4077. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the “Dianne Feinstein Post Office”.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3012) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3012

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 “North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) and subsequent reauthorizations of such Act aimed to promote the protection of human rights, documentation of human rights violations, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) According to the State Department’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, there are “widespread reports of political prisoners and detainees. . . most external estimates were between 80,000 and 120,000; some NGOs placed the figure as high as 200,000.”

(3) North Korea continues to hold a number of South Koreans and Japanese abducted after 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”) and refuses to acknowledge the abduction of more than 100,000 South Koreans during the Korean War in violation of the Geneva Convention.

(4) According to the State Department’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, there are significant human rights violations in North Korea, which include “arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings; enforced disappearance; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; . . . and extensive gender based-violence.”

(5) The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and North Korea’s strict lockdown of its borders and crackdowns on informal market activities and small entrepreneurship have drastically increased food insecurity for its people and given rise to famine conditions in parts of the country.

(6) North Korea’s COVID-19 border lockdown measures also include shoot-to-kill orders that have resulted in the killing of—

(A) North Koreans attempting to cross the border; and

(B) at least 1 South Korean official in September 2020.

(7) The Government of the People’s Republic of China is aiding and abetting North Korea’s human rights violations by forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees to North Korea where they are sent to prison camps, harshly interrogated, and tortured or executed.

(8) The forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees violates the People’s Republic of China’s freely undertaken obligation to uphold the principle of non-refoulement, as a state party to the the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)).

(9) North Korea continues to deny freedom of religion and persecute religious minori-

ties, especially Christians and followers of Shamanism. Eyewitnesses report that Christians in North Korea have been tortured, forcibly detained, and even executed for possessing a Bible or professing Christianity.

(10) The position of Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues was vacant from January 2017 to December 2022, even though 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). In January 2023 President Biden nominated Julie Turner as Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights and Issues She was confirmed in July 2023.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) The human rights and humanitarian conditions within North Korea remain deplorable and have been intentionally perpetuated against the people of North Korea through policies endorsed and implemented by Kim Jong-un and the Government of North Korea.

(2) promoting information access in North Korea continues to be a successful method of countering DPRK propaganda and the United States Government should continue to support nongovernmental radio broadcasting to North Korea and promote other emerging methods in this space;

(3) because refugees among North Koreans fleeing into the People’s Republic of China face severe punishments upon their forcible return, the United States should urge the Government of the People’s Republic of China—

(A) to immediately halt its forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as “UNHCR”) unimpeded access to North Koreans within China to determine whether they are refugees and require assistance;

(C) to fulfill its obligations as a state party to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223) and the Agreement on the upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People’s Republic of China to UNHCR branch office in the People’s Republic of China, done at Geneva December 1, 1995;

(D) to address the concerns of the United Nations Committee Against Torture by incorporating into domestic legislation the principle of non-refoulement; and

(E) to recognize the legal status of North Korean women who marry or have children with Chinese citizens and ensure that all such mothers and children are granted resident status and access to education and other public services in accordance with Chinese law and international standards;

(4) the United States should continue to promote the effective and transparent delivery and distribution of any humanitarian aid provided in North Korea to ensure that such aid reaches its intended recipients to the point of consumption or utilization by cooperating closely with the Government of the Republic of Korea and international and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) the United States currently blocks United States passports from being used to travel to North Korea without a special validation from the Department of State, and the Department of State should continue to take steps to increase public awareness about the risks and dangers of travel by United States citizens to North Korea;

(6) the United Nations has a significant role to play in promoting and improving

human rights in North Korea and should press for access for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea, as well as for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(7) North Korea should repeal the Reactionary Thought and Culture Denunciation Law and other draconian laws, regulations, and decrees that manifestly violate the freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

(8) the United States should expand the Rewards for Justice program to be open to North Korean officials who can provide evidence of crimes against humanity being committed by North Korean officials;

(9) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments—

(A) to allow the UNHCR access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement; and

(B) to allow United States officials access to process refugees for possible resettlement in the United States; and

(10) the Secretary of State, through diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees, escapees, and defectors.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Section 102(b)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)(1)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(b) ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.—Section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(d) REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Section 203 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “103(15)” and inserting “103(17)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2018 through 2022” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 305(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

Title I of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7811 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(a), by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and inserting “United States Agency for Global Media”; and

(2) in section 104(a)—

(A) by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” each place such term appears and inserting “United States Agency for Global Media”; and

(B) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated the following:

“(i) an update of the plan required under subparagraph (A);” and

(iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking “pursuant to section 403” and inserting “to carry out this section”.

SEC. 6. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

Section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REPORT ON APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—If the position of Special Envoy will remain vacant for 1 year or longer without any presidential nomination to appoint a new Special Envoy, not later than 90 days before the date on which such position becomes vacant for 1 year, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the efforts being taken to appoint a new Special Envoy.”.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING KOREAN AMERICAN DIVIDED FAMILIES.

It is the sense of Congress—

(1) the United States and North Korea should begin the process of reuniting Korean-American divided family members with their immediate relatives through ways such as—

(A) identifying divided families in the United States and North Korea who are willing and able to participate in a pilot program for family reunions;

(B) finding matches for members of such families through organizations such as the Red Cross; and

(C) working with the Government of South Korea to include American citizens in inter-Korean video reunions;

(2) the institution of family is inalienable and the restoration of contact between divided families whether physically, literally, or virtually is an urgent need; and

(3) the United States and North Korea should pursue reunions as a humanitarian priority of immediate concern.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Kim Jong Un regime continues to oppress the North Korean people through torture, forced labor, imprisonment, and starvation to continue expanding North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The regime also severely represses the security of the United States and the world by advancing its missile and nuclear weapons programs.

Recent intercontinental ballistic missile tests and an alarming increase in the number of nuclear warheads in North Korea's arsenal are clear demonstrations of its growing threat to global peace and stability.

North Korea has abducted Japanese and South Korean citizens and has caused the death of U.S. citizens while in North Korean custody. These acts of state-sponsored kidnapping and unlawful detention have caused immense suffering to the victims and their families. The regime's blatant disregard for human life and international law is a violation of basic human rights and an affront to global justice.

The North Korean Human Rights Act ensures that the Kim regime's human rights abuses do not go unchecked and reinforces the United States' commitment to promoting human rights in North Korea. By shining a spotlight on these atrocities, the Act seeks to hold the regime responsible for its abuses and to give hope to the North Korean people who continue to endure unimaginable oppression.

This bill extends critical efforts to break the regime's information control over the North Korean people, to protect North Korean defectors and refugees, especially from forced repatriation by China. It also ensures that the regime does not have opportunities to divert international assistance for military purposes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

I start by thanking Representatives KIM and BERA for their leadership on this bill. Initially passed in 2004, the North Korean Human Rights Act was landmark legislation that promoted accountability for human rights violations in North Korea. We are here today because the underlying tenets of this bill are as necessary today as they were 20 years ago.

Since rising to power in 2011, Kim Jong Un has doubled down on the brutal, authoritarian rule of his father and grandfather. His government has committed untold human rights violations, including arbitrary and extrajudicial killings, mass detention, forced labor, and torture.

Under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pyongyang used lockdowns to intensify its repression, including through shoot-to-kill orders on its borders and draconian policies that have driven segments of the North Korean population into famine.

Today, North Korea remains one of the most, if not the most, repressive countries in the world. It is critical that we reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act today, and I urge the Senate to pass this bill immediately so that President Biden can sign it into law this year. It is essential that we reauthorize the bill now to make the United States' commitment on this issue clear and irreversible.

We must not ignore the horrific human catastrophe taking place in North Korea. It is disappointing that

the Trump administration did not appoint a Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues, which the North Korean Human Rights Act mandates. Congress must ensure that does not happen again.

This bill will enable thorough legislative oversight of the administration's North Korea policy, including by requiring the administration to answer to Congress should it fail to appoint a Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues in an expedient fashion.

H.R. 3012 would also provide the incoming administration with the tools necessary to elevate the cause of human rights in North Korea while extending reporting requirements that will allow Congress to ensure that the United States does not ignore Pyongyang's brutal treatment of its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chair of the Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOYLAN for yielding and for his leadership as well as my good friend Representative MANNING for moving this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

This bill updates the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 that was enacted to provide humanitarian aid to North Korean refugees, allow for information access for the North Korean people, and appoint a U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.

H.R. 3012 reauthorizes, streamlines, and strengthens oversight of these programs through 2028 and calls for Korean-American families to be reunited with their immediate relatives in North Korea.

We need someone at the State Department dedicated entirely to North Korean human rights issues, especially as Kim Jong Un's brutality against his own people grows. Why?

Because North Korean women and children face the most inhumane treatment in the world, child labor is institutionalized in North Korea, and women are forced into sex trafficking organized by government officials and human traffickers; because an estimated 100,000 North Koreans are subject to forced labor in factories with inhumane conditions in the People's Republic of China; and because torture, forced disappearances, imprisonment, forced sterilization, and religious persecution are tools regularly used to consolidate the North Korean regime's power.

From January 2017 to December 2022, the special envoy position was vacant; that is nearly 6 years. If the position is ever vacant again for more than 180 days, my bill requires the State De-

partment to report on ongoing efforts to fill the position.

The authorization for the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 lapsed in 2022. We must get this legislation signed into law this Congress. We cannot ignore the threat posed by North Korea, and holding the North Korean regime accountable without supporting human rights is a nonstarter.

Failing to reauthorize this landmark human rights initiative sends a signal to Kim Jong Un that the United States will allow human rights abuses in North Korea and around the world to fall on deaf ears.

I thank Representative AMI BERA for co-leading this bill with me, and I thank our chairman of the full committee and his staff for their leadership and commitment to human rights and freedoms for the North Korean people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3012.

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

We must be just as committed today to supporting the human rights of North Koreans as we were in 2004, which is why I support this bipartisan reauthorization of the North Korean Human Rights Act through 2028.

While much of U.S. policy toward North Korea is focused on its nuclear and missile programs, we cannot ignore the gross human rights abuses within the country. We can and must address both.

I thank Representatives KIM and BERA for shining a light on the struggle of the North Korean people. I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill.

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

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

In closing, I thank Representatives KIM and BERA of California for working together on this important legislation that reinforces the United States' commitment to promoting human rights in North Korea.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3012, 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. MOYLAN. 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.

AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8234) to authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8234

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS.

Section 6109(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 213a(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) A United States citizen who, as determined by the Secretary, is employed by and provides services through a reputable, established company or institution and is commissioned or appointed as a notary or notary public or otherwise authorized to perform a notarization under the laws of a State, district, or territorial government.”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICES FOR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS AND PASSPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may be necessary to—

(1) facilitate an increase in the number of companies certified to provide hand-carry courier services; and

(2) increase the daily maximum number of applications for United States regular passports, by service type, that such companies may submit to a passport agency of the Department of State (commonly referred to as “meeting slots”) as part of the hand-carry courier services of such company.

(b) HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “hand-carry courier service” means—

(1) the transport of applications for United States passports to a passport agency of the Department of State for processing; and

(2) the retrieval of newly issued United States passports for delivery, directly or indirectly, to the passport holder.

SEC. 3. DATE OF EXPIRATION OF UNITED STATES PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may be necessary to provide that each United States regular passport issued or renewed on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act expires on the same month and day of the month as the date of birth of the individual associated with such passport.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members