

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1263

To require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mrs. KIM, Mr. BERA, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening the
5 Quad Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) as a Pacific power, the United States should
2 continue to strengthen joint cooperation between the
3 United States, Australia, India, and Japan (com-
4 monly referred to as the “Quadrilateral Dialogue” or
5 “Quad” and referred to as such in this Act) to en-
6 hance and implement a shared vision to meet re-
7 gional challenges and to promote a free, open, inclu-
8 sive, resilient, and healthy Indo-Pacific, that is char-
9 acterized by respect for democratic norms, rule of
10 law, and market-driven economic growth, and is free
11 from undue influence and coercion;

12 (2) the United States should expand dialogue
13 and cooperation through the Quad with a range of
14 partners to support peace and prosperity, the rule of
15 law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the peace-
16 ful resolution of disputes, and democratic resilience
17 in the Indo-Pacific;

18 (3) the pledge from the first-ever Quad leaders
19 meeting on March 12, 2021, to address shared chal-
20 lenges, including in public health, cyberspace, critical
21 technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure
22 investment, and humanitarian assistance and dis-
23 aster relief, as well as maritime domains, laid the
24 foundation for critical cooperation among Quad
25 countries;

1 (4) the Quad countries, working through insti-
2 tutions, including the United States International
3 Development Finance Corporation, the Japan Inter-
4 national Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Bank
5 for International Cooperation, and through partner-
6 ships with multilateral development banks such as
7 the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank,
8 should finance development and infrastructure
9 projects in the Indo-Pacific region that are competi-
10 tive, transparent, and sustainable;

11 (5) President Biden’s decision to elevate the
12 Quad to the leader level was critical to bolstering co-
13 operation, and all 4 countries should work to ensure
14 that the Quad Leaders’ Summit continues to take
15 place regularly;

16 (6) the ambitious framework for ongoing co-
17 operation laid out by the 4 leaders at the fifth con-
18 vening of the Quad Leaders’ Summit in Hiroshima
19 on May 20, 2023, should continue;

20 (7) Secretary of State Marco Rubio hosted the
21 Quad Foreign Ministers in Washington, DC on Jan-
22 uary 21, 2025—his first day in office—underscoring
23 the continued importance of cooperation between the
24 4 democracies; and

1 (8) the formation of a Quad Inter-Parliamen-
2 tary Working Group will—

3 (A) sustain and deepen engagement be-
4 tween senior officials of the Quad countries on
5 a full spectrum of issues; and

6 (B) be modeled on the successful and long-
7 standing bilateral inter-parliamentary groups
8 between the United States and Mexico, Canada,
9 and the United Kingdom, as well as other for-
10 mal and informal parliamentary exchanges.

11 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
14 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
15 a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation with
16 the Quad.

17 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy re-
18 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

19 (1) A description of how the United States in-
20 tends to demonstrate democratic leadership in the
21 Indo-Pacific through quadrilateral engagement with
22 Australia, India, and Japan on shared interests and
23 common challenges.

24 (2) A summary of—

1 (A) current and past Quad initiatives
2 across the whole of the United States Govern-
3 ment, including to promote broad based and in-
4 clusive economic growth and investment, and to
5 advance technology cooperation, energy innova-
6 tion, climate mitigation and adaptation, phys-
7 ical and digital infrastructure development, edu-
8 cation, disaster management, resilient supply
9 chains including in critical minerals, and global
10 health security;

11 (B) proposals agreed to by all Quad coun-
12 tries since January 2021 to deepen existing se-
13 curity cooperation, intelligence sharing, eco-
14 nomic partnerships, and multilateral coordina-
15 tion; and

16 (C) initiatives and agreements undertaken
17 jointly with Quad countries, in addition to other
18 like-minded partners in the Indo-Pacific, on
19 areas of shared interest since January 2021.

20 (3) A description of the diplomatic and bureau-
21 cratic barriers and obstacles to implementing and
22 expanding existing streams of Quad cooperation.

23 (4) A list of recommendations on how Congress
24 could assist in addressing the barriers described in
25 paragraph (3), as well as—

1 (A) any new authorities needed to
2 strengthen United States leadership in and con-
3 tribution to existing and proposed Quad initia-
4 tives and programs; and

5 (B) additional resources needed to scale up
6 and expand successful Quad initiatives and pro-
7 grams.

8 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
9 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
10 sional committees” means—

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

13 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
14 Senate.

15 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUAD INTER-PARLIAMENTARY**
16 **WORKING GROUP.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
19 State shall seek to enter into negotiations with the Gov-
20 ernments of Australia, India, and Japan (collectively, with
21 the United States, known as the “Quad”) with the goal
22 of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Inter-
23 Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer coopera-
24 tion on shared interests and values.

25 (b) UNITED STATES GROUP.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—At such time as the govern-
2 ments of the Quad countries enter into a written
3 agreement described in subsection (a) to establish a
4 Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group, there
5 shall be established a United States Group, which
6 shall represent the United States at the Quad Inter-
7 Parliamentary Working Group.

8 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
10 Group shall be comprised of not more than 24
11 Members of Congress.

12 (B) APPOINTMENT.—Of the Members of
13 Congress appointed to the United States Group
14 under subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) half shall be appointed by the
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives,
17 based on recommendations from the minor-
18 ity leader, from among Members of the
19 House, not fewer than 4 of whom shall be
20 members of the Committee on Foreign Af-
21 fairs; and

22 (ii) half shall be appointed by the
23 President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
24 based on recommendations of the majority
25 leader and minority leader of the Senate,

1 from among Members of the Senate, not
2 fewer than 4 of whom shall be members of
3 the Committee on Foreign Relations (un-
4 less the majority leader and minority lead-
5 er determine otherwise).

6 (3) MEETINGS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The United States
8 Group shall seek to meet not less frequently
9 than annually with representatives and appro-
10 priate staff of the legislatures of Australia,
11 India, and Japan, and any other country in-
12 vited by mutual agreement of the Quad coun-
13 tries.

14 (B) LIMITATION.—A meeting described in
15 subparagraph (A) may be held—

16 (i) in the United States;

17 (ii) in another Quad country during
18 periods when Congress is not in session; or

19 (iii) virtually.

20 (4) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—

21 (A) HOUSE DELEGATION.—The Speaker of
22 the House of Representatives shall designate
23 the chairperson or vice chairperson of the dele-
24 gation of the United States Group from the

1 House from among members of the Committee
2 on Foreign Affairs.

3 (B) SENATE DELEGATION.—The President
4 Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate the
5 chairperson or vice chairperson of the delega-
6 tion of the United States Group from the Sen-
7 ate from among members of the Committee on
8 Foreign Relations.

9 (5) PRIVATE SOURCES.—The United States
10 Group may accept gifts or donations of services or
11 property, subject to the review and approval, as ap-
12 propriate, of the Committee on Ethics of the House
13 of Representatives and the Committee on Ethics of
14 the Senate.

15 (6) CERTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES.—The
16 certificate of the chairperson of the delegation from
17 the House of Representatives or the delegation of
18 the Senate of the United States Group shall be final
19 and conclusive upon the accounting officers in the
20 auditing of the accounts of the United States Group.

21 (7) ANNUAL REPORT.—The United States
22 Group shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Af-
23 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
24 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report
25 at the end of each year that outlines the group's ac-

1 tivities that year, including a description of its ex-
2 penditures, and its recommendations for enhancing
3 the Quad.

4 (8) ENGAGEMENT WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON THE
5 QUAD.—Senior United States officials shall provide
6 regular updates and briefings to the United States
7 Group, including leading up to and after major
8 Quadrilateral dialogues, to ensure close coordination
9 with Congress.

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