

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1461

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF ENFORCEMENT INSTRUCTION ON SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC SERVICES IN CRITICAL ACCESS AND SMALL RURAL HOSPITALS THROUGH 2015.

Section 1 of Public Law 113-198 is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “AND 2015” after “2014”; and

(2) by striking “calendar year 2014” and inserting “calendar years 2014 and 2015”.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PHYLLIS E. GALANTI ARBORETUM

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2693) to designate the arboretum at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, as the “Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2693

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Phyllis Eason Galanti, a tireless advocate for the rights of prisoners of war from the United States during the Vietnam War and a beloved member of the Richmond, Virginia, community, died on April 23, 2014.

(2) Ms. Eason graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1963 and shortly afterward was married to Paul Edward Galanti, a pilot with the United States Navy, at the Chapel of the Centurion in Fort Monroe, Virginia.

(3) In June 1966, when Mr. Galanti was shot down over North Vietnam, captured, and held prisoner, Phyllis E. Galanti became active in the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, soon becoming chair of the organization.

(4) Mrs. Galanti spearheaded the Let's Bring Paul Galanti Home project as part of the national Write Hanoi campaign—

(A) to raise awareness;

(B) to secure the return of more than 600 soldiers from the United States who were missing in action or held as prisoners of war in Vietnam; and

(C) to ensure that prisoners of war were treated in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

(5) The efforts of Mrs. Galanti under the Let's Bring Paul Galanti Home project, the most successful of many such campaigns, re-

sulted in more than 1,000,000 letters that were personally delivered to the North Vietnamese embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1971.

(6) Mrs. Galanti became known as “Fearless Phyllis”, traveling to Versailles, France, seeking an audience with North Vietnamese leaders, and giving hundreds of presentations to policy leaders in the United States, including President Richard Nixon, National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger, and Virginia Governor Mills E. Godwin, Jr., who said of her in 1975, “One dedicated woman and a handful of others had more influence on the communist world than legions of armies and diplomats.”.

(7) After more than seven years apart, Mrs. Galanti was reunited with her husband Paul Galanti at the Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia, on February 15, 1973.

(8) Mrs. Galanti spent decades confronting the issue of prisoners and hostages from the United States, not only in Vietnam but also in the Soviet Union and Iran.

(9) Mrs. Galanti actively supported the Virginia Home, Theatre IV, and the Virginia Repertory Theatre, visited schools, and continued to meet with lawmakers until she died on April 23, 2014, at age 73, from complications with leukemia.

(10) The work of Mrs. Galanti earned her the American Legion Service Medal, and the Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center at the Virginia War Memorial was named in honor of her and her husband.

(11) The leadership at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, including Director John Brandecker, seeks to recognize Mrs. Galanti by naming the arboretum at Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in her honor.

(12) It is a fitting tribute that Congress name the arboretum after such an outstanding advocate for members of the Armed Forces of the United States and veterans.

SEC. 2. PHYLLIS E. GALANTI ARBORETUM AT HUNTER HOLMES MCGUIRE VA MEDICAL CENTER IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The arboretum at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the arboretum referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Phyllis E. Galanti Arboretum.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

FOREIGN AID TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 3766) to direct the President to establish guidelines for United States foreign development and economic assistance programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3766

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 “Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. GUIDELINES FOR UNITED STATES FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to evaluate the performance of United States foreign development and economic assistance and its contribution to the policies, strategies, projects, program goals, and priorities undertaken by the Federal Government, to foster and promote innovative programs to improve effectiveness, and to coordinate the monitoring and evaluation processes of Federal departments and agencies that administer United States foreign development and economic assistance.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF GUIDELINES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall set forth guidelines for the establishment of measurable goals, performance metrics, and monitoring and evaluation plans that can be applied with reasonable consistency to United States foreign development and economic assistance. Such guidelines shall be established according to best practices of monitoring and evaluation studies and analyses.

(c) OBJECTIVES OF GUIDELINES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The guidelines established under subsection (b) shall provide direction to Federal departments and agencies that administer United States foreign development and economic assistance on monitoring the use of resources, evaluating the outcomes and impacts of United States foreign development and economic assistance projects and programs, and applying the findings and conclusions of such evaluations to proposed project and program design.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—Specifically, the guidelines established under subsection (b) shall require Federal departments and agencies that administer United States foreign development and economic assistance to take the following actions:

(A) Establish annual monitoring and evaluation agendas and objectives to plan and manage the process of monitoring, evaluating, analyzing progress, and applying learning toward achieving results.

(B) Develop specific project monitoring and evaluation plans, to include measurable goals and performance metrics, and identify the resources necessary to conduct such evaluations, which should be covered by program costs, during project design.

(C) Apply rigorous monitoring and evaluation methodologies to such programs, including through the use of impact evaluations, ex-post evaluations, or other methods as appropriate, that clearly define program logic, inputs, outputs, intermediate outcomes, and end outcomes.

(D) Disseminate guidelines for the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation programs to all personnel, especially in the field, who are responsible for the design, implementation, and management of United States foreign development and economic assistance programs.

(E) Establish methodologies for the collection of data, including baseline data to serve

as a reference point against which progress can be measured.

(F) Evaluate at least once in their lifetime all programs whose dollar value equals or exceeds the median program size for the relevant office or bureau or an equivalent calculation to ensure the majority of program resources are evaluated.

(G) Conduct impact evaluations on all pilot programs before replicating wherever possible, or provide a written justification for not conducting an impact evaluation where such an evaluation was deemed inappropriate or impossible.

(H) Develop a clearinghouse capacity for the collection and dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned that serve as benchmarks to guide future programs for United States development professionals, implementing partners, the donor community, and aid recipient governments, and as a repository of knowledge on lessons learned.

(I) Distribute evaluation reports internally.

(J) Publicly report each evaluation, including an executive summary, a description of the evaluation methodology, key findings, appropriate context (including quantitative and qualitative data when available), and recommendations made in the evaluation within 90 days after the completion of the evaluation.

(K) Undertake collaborative partnerships and coordinate efforts with the academic community, implementing partners, and national and international institutions that have expertise in program monitoring, evaluation, and analysis when such partnerships provide needed expertise or significantly improve the evaluation and analysis.

(L) Ensure verifiable, valid, credible, precise, reliable, and timely data are available to monitoring and evaluation personnel to permit the objective evaluation of the effectiveness of United States foreign development and economic assistance programs, including an assessment of assumptions and limitations in such evaluations.

(M) Ensure that standards of professional evaluation organizations for monitoring and evaluation efforts are employed, including ensuring the integrity and independence of evaluations, permitting and encouraging the exercise of professional judgment, and providing for quality control and assurance in the monitoring and evaluation process.

(d) **PRESIDENTIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains a detailed description of the guidelines established under subsection (b). The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but it may contain a classified annex.

(e) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, not later than 1 year after the report required by subsection (d) is submitted to Congress, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that analyzes—

(1) the guidelines established pursuant to subsection (b); and

(2) a side-by-side comparison of the President's budget request for that fiscal year of every operational unit that carries out United States foreign development and economic assistance and the performance of such units during the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 3. INFORMATION ON UNITED STATES FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) **PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.**—

(1) **UPDATE OF EXISTING WEB SITE.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall update the Department of State's Internet Web site, "ForeignAssistance.gov",

to make publicly available comprehensive, timely, and comparable information on United States foreign development and economic assistance programs, including all information required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that is then available to the Secretary of State.

(2) **INFORMATION SHARING.**—The head of each Federal department or agency that administers United States foreign development and economic assistance shall, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, provide to the Secretary of State comprehensive information about the United States foreign development and economic assistance programs carried out by such department or agency.

(3) **UPDATES TO WEB SITE.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall publish, through the "ForeignAssistance.gov" Web site or a successor online publication, the information provided under subsection (b) of this section and shall update such information on a quarterly basis.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The information described in subsection (a) shall be published on a detailed award-by-award and country-by-country basis unless assistance is provided on a regional level, in which case the information shall be published on an award-by-award and region-by-region basis.

(2) **TYPES OF INFORMATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To ensure transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of United States foreign development and economic assistance programs, the information described in subsection (a) shall include—

(i) links to all regional, country, and sector assistance strategies, annual budget documents, congressional budget justifications, evaluations and summaries of evaluations as required under section 2(c)(2)(J);

(ii) basic descriptive summaries for United States foreign development and economic assistance programs and awards under such programs; and

(iii) obligations and expenditures under such programs.

Each type of information described in this paragraph shall be published or updated on the Internet Web site not later than 90 days after the date of issuance of the information.

(B) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to require a Federal department or agency that administers United States foreign development and economic assistance to provide any information that does not relate to or is not otherwise required by the United States foreign development and economic assistance programs carried out by such department or agency.

(3) **REPORT IN LIEU OF INCLUSION.**—

(A) **HEALTH OR SECURITY OF IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS.**—If the head of a Federal department or agency, in consultation with the Secretary of State, makes a determination that the inclusion of a required item of information online would jeopardize the health or security of an implementing partner or program beneficiary or would require the release of proprietary information of an implementing partner or program beneficiary, the head of the Federal department or agency shall provide such determination in writing to the appropriate congressional committees, including the basis for such determination and shall—

(i) provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on such information; or

(ii) submit to the appropriate congressional committees such information in a written report.

(B) **NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.**—If the Secretary of State makes a determination that the inclusion of a required item of information online would be detrimental to the national interests of the United States, the Secretary of State shall provide such determination in writing to the appropriate congressional committees, including the basis for such determination and shall—

(i) provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on such information; or

(ii) submit to the appropriate congressional committees the item of information in a written report.

(C) **FORM.**—Any briefing or item of information provided under this paragraph may be provided in classified form, as appropriate.

(4) **FAILURE TO COMPLY.**—If a Federal department or agency fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (a), paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection, or subsection (c) with respect to providing information described in subsection (a), and the information is not subject to a determination under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3) of this subsection not to make the information publicly available, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the head of such department or agency, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees not later than September 1, 2016, a consolidated report describing, with respect to each required item of information not made publicly available—

(A) a detailed explanation of the reason for not making such information publicly available; and

(B) the department's or agency's plan and timeline for immediately making such information publicly available, and for ensuring that information is made publicly available in following years.

(c) **SCOPE OF INFORMATION.**—The online publication required by subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, provide the information required by subsection (b)—

(1) in each fiscal year from 2016 through 2019, such information for fiscal years 2012 through the current fiscal year; and

(2) for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, such information for the immediately preceding five fiscal years in a fully searchable form.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) **EVALUATION.**—The term "evaluation" means, with respect to a United States foreign development and economic assistance program, the systematic collection and analysis of information about the characteristics and outcomes of the program, including projects conducted under such program, as a basis for making judgments and evaluations regarding the program, to improve program effectiveness, and to inform decisions about current and future programming.

(3) **UNITED STATES FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.**—The term "United States foreign development and economic assistance" means assistance provided primarily for the purposes of foreign development and economic support, including assistance authorized under—

(A) part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), other than—

(i) title IV of chapter 2 of such part (relating to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation);

(ii) chapter 3 of such part (relating to International Organizations and Programs); and

(iii) chapter 8 of such part (relating to International Narcotics Control);

(B) chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.; relating to Economic Support Fund);

(C) the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.); and

(D) the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and the ranking member, my cosponsor on this legislation, Mr. CONNOLLY from Virginia, for this legislation being brought to the House floor tonight.

The Foreign Aid Authorization Act first passed Congress in 1961. If you mention foreign aid to many Americans, Madam Speaker, it raises their blood pressure. Members of our communities often are concerned about foreign aid to other countries because they are just not quite sure where that aid is going and what that aid is accomplishing.

It is important that we, as Members of the House of Representatives, legislatively communicate to America how America's money is being spent in foreign countries. It is important that we are accountable and that that money, that aid, is accountable to the taxpayers.

It may shock you, Madam Speaker—maybe it won't—but Congress has never passed a law requiring transparency and accountability of foreign aid. I will use a different phrase. We have never audited our foreign aid to see if it is working and to see what it is doing so people can see whether it is successful or not.

The American public is uninformed about how much we spend and why we spend that money. A recent *Publish What You Fund* study rated half of U.S. agencies in the “poor” category when it came to transparency of aid. Transparency is important because it sheds light on where the money is spent. It is a lot harder to steal money if everybody knows where the money went and what it was for.

The American people have a right to know what we are doing with their money. There are a lot of success stories, but many Americans don't know about them. So it is important that we post that information and that the agencies that help in foreign aid assistance post that information on the Web so we know who is getting the money and what they are doing with that money.

Transparency will help foreign aid. It will make it harder for bad actors to steal that aid. It will make those who implement our programs work more vigilantly knowing the information will also be posted online. It will educate the American public about all the ways our country is helping other people around the world. As I said, Madam Speaker, there are a lot of success stories where people are better off because America is helping them.

Transparency by itself, however, won't save all of foreign aid's problems, but without transparency, those problems will not be solved. We also need to evaluate our foreign aid program so we know what works.

The key portions of this bill are transparency of the aid and evaluation of the aid: evaluate that aid to see if it is working, and if it is working may continue to do that aid; evaluate aid—if it is not working, then we cut it off and do something else.

We have all heard about the boondoggles of foreign aid. Big infrastructure projects are especially prone to waste and mismanagement. That is why it is so critically important that, as part of this bill being implemented, licensed engineers who know how to do these infrastructure projects are more involved with their expert input and operational skills.

Let me give you some examples of where foreign aid has been mismanaged. Schools are being built by Americans overseas, but some of those schools never had a student attend them. The Special Inspector for Iraq Reconstruction found out that at least \$8 billion in American taxpayer dollars was lost to fraud, waste, and abuse. \$44 million was spent on a residential camp to house international police trainers. The camp included an Olympic-sized swimming pool. The problem is, swimming pool and all, it was never used.

The \$43 million natural gas station in Afghanistan was built by the Department of Defense when it built the same kind of gas station for \$500,000 in Pakistan. Let me explain that again. American taxpayers built a \$43 million natural gas station. Besides the enormous, outrageous cost, nobody ever used the gas station in Afghanistan.

So rigorous evaluations of our foreign aid are important because they can tell us whether or not we are really making a lasting impact. We have a long way to go, and the State Department really doesn't have a system in place to keep track of the dollars spent on evaluation of those projects.

The State Department can only tell how much it plans to spend in the future, but as soon as it spends that money on evaluations, it has no way of tracking where the money went. So the State Department can't even tell how many evaluations were even done last year on the aid that we are already spending. Even in its policy, the State Department is moving in the wrong direction. Its new evaluation policy lowers the amount of evaluations that must be done.

USAID has some troubling signs as well. USAID spent less money on evaluations in 2014 than it did in 2013. To solve some of these problems with transparency and with accountability of our foreign aid, Representative CONNOLLY and myself have introduced H.R. 3766, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act. This bill requires the President to issue guidelines requiring tough evaluations. And on transparency, it codifies what is already being done and increases the amount of information required to be posted online, including actual expenditures and evaluations so everyone knows what we are doing and whether it is working or not.

We need to be reporting on more foreign aid in a more understandable way. The American people want to know where their aid is going, what it is for, and if that aid is effective.

Transparency and accountability for our foreign aid: this is a commonsense bill, and it doesn't cost any money, Madam Speaker.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of this measure.

First of all, I want to thank Congressman POE and Congressman CONNOLLY for all their hard work on this bill. Enhancing transparency and accountability in our foreign assistance spending is something with which we can all agree. And it is important that we get our foreign assistance right. Our foreign aid represents just a tiny sliver of the Federal Government's annual budget—less than 1 percent. But if it is put to the right use, it is an investment that pays huge dividends.

Why is that? Because when we support the construction of a water treatment facility in an overcrowded city or train teachers in a rural village, we are doing more than just directly helping those affected. We are helping to bring stability and prosperity to entire communities and populations. And when we have stronger partners around the world, it helps enhance our own security and advance our own interests.

So, as I like to say, foreign assistance is the right thing to do for those who are in desperate need, and it is also the smart thing to do in terms of American foreign policy and national security. But it is important that we are spending our limited foreign assistance dollars efficiently and effectively.

The Obama administration is taking important steps to enhance the monitoring and evaluation of our foreign assistance programs. When she was Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton was at the forefront of those efforts.

This legislation, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act, would build on the great progress already made by the administration. It would write into law many of the steps they have already taken, making these efforts permanent for future administrations.

This will help ensure that our investments are as effective as possible by requiring measurable goals and plans for monitoring and evaluation.

Madam Speaker, this important legislating will help all of us to better understand how our foreign assistance programs help promote stability, prosperity, and democracy around the world, and how these investments advance our own security interests.

I am for accountability, so I strongly support this bill. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with strong concerns over President Obama attempting to unilaterally bypass Congress once again and enter the United States into the so-called "Paris Protocol" on global warming.

As the proud Representative of the 36th Congressional District in the State of Texas, I can tell you that my constituents want nothing to do with this expensive, ineffective, and unnecessary proposal.

According to the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, the Paris Protocol will reduce U.S. gross domestic product by an average of 9.1 percent, or \$5 trillion per year. And consistent with this, NERA Economic Consulting states this will cost U.S. taxpayers approximately more than \$30 billion per year.

Aside from the constitutional issues of the President bypassing the Senate and not submitting this proposal as a treaty, and the outrageous costs, these negotiations will not even accomplish their end goal of substantial climate benefits.

A U.S. pledge to the U.N. is estimated to prevent only one-fiftieth of 1 degree Celsius temperature rise over the next 85 years.

□ 1745

Simply put, our planet will see no measurable benefit at all, but our economy will be wrecked by this accord.

This is just another example of the terrible leadership that we have seen from this administration and of the important role that Congress must play in standing up and fighting back on behalf of the American people.

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

I thought we were debating Mr. POE's and Mr. CONNOLLY's bill. I didn't real-

ize that climate change was on the agenda. Let me say that today, Secretary Kerry met with a bunch of businesspeople and led a meeting, and they talked about climate change because climate change is real.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and an author of this legislation.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear friend from New York, the distinguished ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, for his great leadership and for always being supportive of all of our work.

I also want to thank my dear friend from Texas, TED POE. He has been a wonderful partner and initiator of reform and of thoughtful legislation on our committee. It has been my privilege to cosponsor a lot of legislation with Mr. POE to try to make things better.

Today, I rise in support of another such example, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015.

Madam Speaker, this bill is a project I have worked on with Judge POE for a number of years now. In the 112th Congress, a previous iteration of the bill passed this body by a unanimous vote. We hope for a similar outcome in this Congress and for quick Senate consideration and passage.

The bill directs the President to establish monitoring and evaluation guidelines for the 22 Federal agencies that are charged with implementing some piece of development and economic assistance.

The guidelines will require M&E plans as part of the project development process, and agencies will be encouraged to incorporate the findings of evaluations and impact studies into subsequent foreign assistance programs. This feedback loop will include measurable goals, performance metrics, and a clearinghouse for lessons learned on U.S.-led aid projects, something long overdue after 60-plus years of foreign aid. Additionally, the legislation requires that the documents and reports created under this M&E regime be made available to the public on foreignassistance.gov.

This administration has developed an encouraging record on foreign aid transparency. The Foreign Assistance Dashboard, which was created in 2010, is a great example of demonstrating a promising inclination toward disclosure that we hope to enshrine in this law. This measure will strengthen and codify those transparency best practices to ensure that they exist as agency policy under future administrations that might not be as accommodating of the aid community's demand for this information.

Aid programs that are held accountable for their performance and results can be made more effective, and their impact on communities and countries abroad can be more easily demonstrated. Perhaps, with more informa-

tion, we can dispel the commonly held belief that 26 percent of our budget goes to foreign aid, when, as my friend Judge POE pointed out, it is actually less than 1 percent.

The U.S. foreign assistance operation does not lack passion. The men and women who put themselves in harm's way overseas and who take their families to remote areas of the world, often dangerous, in the interest of helping vulnerable populations, are certainly not seeking fame, glory, or fortune. They do it because they can envision a path to prosperity in even the most poverty-stricken areas of the world, and they see the promise of democracy in the face of the most repressive and authoritarian regimes.

While our passion is well-defined, our mission and metrics are not.

Regarding our mission, I was a staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee the last time Congress actually passed a foreign aid authorization bill in 1986. The original Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which Judge POE cited, listed five principal goals for foreign aid. Today, we have more than 260. Some are competing and some are redundant.

What is our core mission today?

Until January 2014, USAID's mission statement read as follows: "USAID accelerates human progress in developing countries by reducing poverty, advancing democracy, building market economies, promoting security, responding to crises, and improving quality of life. Working with governments, institutions, and civil society, we assist individuals to build their own futures by mobilizing the full range of America's public and private resources through our expert presence overseas."

That is not a clear mission statement. I am hopeful this bill will help us focus on the foreign assistance operations.

While I think we have some distance to travel in streamlining the legislative construct for foreign assistance and clearly articulating our mission, we have an opportunity today to make immense progress toward establishing badly needed metrics for aid programs with the passage of this bill. It is time to apply a data-driven approach to constructing an assistance operation that has the support of both this Congress and of a well-informed public.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Again, I particularly thank my friend, Judge POE, for his leadership, for his initiative, and for his vision with respect to this subject. I know it is going to actually make U.S. foreign assistance investments in the future a lot more effective and a lot more accountable.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his comments. A couple of things that he mentioned are worth mentioning again, I believe.

This very bill that we have been working on for a long time passed unanimously in this House of Representatives 4 years ago in December. Why didn't it become law? Because, in the Senate's rules, one Senator was able to block the legislation from even being voted on in the Senate. So here we are again, 4 years later, trying to get this legislation passed.

My friend mentioned USAID and their mission statement. Nothing in the definition of "assistance" in this bill precludes USAID from reporting on data fields that it currently reports on for the Green Book and for OECD. So, if they are already making reports, this legislation, to be very clear, does not prohibit them from also making those other reports, but they will comply with the legislation in this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3766, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act.

I want to begin by recognizing my colleagues, the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), for all of the work that they have done to get this important bill to the floor and to thank them for working, as they always do, in a bipartisan way on behalf of the members of our committee.

I also thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership on this bill and for their creating an environment on the Foreign Affairs Committee, where we work together in a bipartisan way, and this legislation is a product of that work.

Madam Speaker, the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act will enhance the transparency and effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance by requiring a framework for monitoring and evaluating foreign development and economic programs and for publicly disclosing the data and results.

The United States carries out a wide variety of assistance programs overseas, and it is important that there is a clearly articulated strategy and monitoring apparatus for our assistance. It is just as important that the American people have access to the information about what activities their tax dollars are funding. This is critical to sustaining public understanding and support for our diplomatic work and our foreign assistance.

I also want to take a moment to commend the Obama administration for making much of this information publicly available online on their Foreign Assistance Dashboard.

I hope that my colleagues support this legislation so that we can continue

to increase efficiency and accountability in our foreign assistance programs. The American people deserve this, and it will make our foreign assistance better understood and more impactful. I urge my colleagues to support this excellent legislation.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as I have no further requests for time, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

In closing, let me, again, thank Chairman ROYCE for bringing this bill forward and thank Representatives POE and CONNOLLY for their hard work.

Our foreign assistance helps improve the lives of countless people around the world, and it helps advance American interests and American values. Foreign assistance deserves the continued support of Congress. At the same time, we need to know that our foreign assistance dollars are being put to the best use possible, that we are getting the biggest bang for our buck. The American people expect no less when it comes to their tax dollars, and they are right.

So let's stand up for foreign assistance and for transparency and accountability by passing this bill. I urge a "yes" vote.

I congratulate Judge POE and Mr. CONNOLLY.

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

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

I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, Ranking Member ENGEL, and, of course, my friend, Mr. CONNOLLY from Virginia, for their support on this bill.

Madam Speaker, the Foreign Affairs Committee is probably more bipartisan than any committee in the House of Representatives. Almost everything that we do and the legislation we bring to the floor, the vast majority of Members support. Sometimes every Member supports the legislation. This is another one of those pieces of legislation that is good for the country and is really good for the whole world.

Transparency and evaluation is what this bill is about. As I started out in my comments, many Americans don't know what we do with their money. Let me just give a few examples:

Because of American aid, there are now millions of girls in other parts of the world who are getting an education. Because of Americans and their interest, half of the AIDS epidemic in Africa has been cut. It has been cut in half, the epidemic of AIDS in Africa. The life expectancy of people in Afghanistan, because of American aid, has grown 20 years. When it comes to the youth, many children throughout the world are dying because they have dirty water. It is not clean. Because of USAID and their help, that number has been cut in half. The children are now living because they are getting clean water.

Those are just a few things that are being done. We should be proud of those accomplishments.

We also want to make sure that those accomplishments and what we are doing with American money is transparent. We want to continue to evaluate it to see if it is working. If it is working, let's continue it, and if it is not working, then let's do something else.

I do want to thank those involved for their support, especially the chairman and the ranking member.

H.R. 3766 will give us the tools to make foreign aid programs efficient and effective, two words that sometimes aren't used with "government." I strongly support this legislation.

And that is just the way it is.

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. POE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3766, 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.

LASALLE LANCERS DID IT AGAIN

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, they did it again.

The LaSalle Lancers won the Ohio Division II State football championship for the second year in a row, and they won it convincingly, as they did last year, 42-0, this time over Massillon Perry.

One reason LaSalle was ready to compete and prevail for the State championship was they were challenged throughout the season by other great Cincinnati high school football programs. There is a saying, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Having to play Cincinnati powerhouse teams like Colerain, Elder, St. X, and Moeller didn't kill LaSalle, but it certainly made them stronger.

I am proud to say that LaSalle has been an important part of my life. I got my start in politics there by getting elected to the student council, and I played football, starting on the defensive line. Ten years later, my younger brother, Dave, also played defensive back for LaSalle. Of course, there is another saying, the older I get, the better I was.

So congratulations to LaSalle's players, coaches, students, teachers, parents, and supporters. Well done.

Lancers, roll deep. Congratulations.

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IMPORTANCE OF ABUNDANT ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) is recognized for