

**MARKUP OF H.RES. 512, H.R. 5408,  
H.RES. 742, H.R. 5664, H. RES. 720,  
H.R. 2166, H.R. 2847, H.RES. 723,  
H.RES. 809, H.RES. 458, AND H.R.  
1611**

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**MARKUP**  
BEFORE THE  
**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

MARCH 4, 2020

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**MARKUP OF H.RES. 512, H.R. 5408, H.RES. 742,  
H.R. 5664, H. RES. 720, H.R. 2166, H.R. 2847,  
H.RES. 723, H.RES. 809, H.RES. 458, AND H.R.  
1611**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs**

*Washington, DC*

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:07 a.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Eliot Engel (chairman of the committee) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will come to order. Without objection, the chair is authorized to declare a recess of a committee at any point pursuant to Committee Rule 4, the chair may postpone further proceedings on approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. Without objection, all members may have 5 days to submit statements or extraneous materials on today's business.

As members were notified yesterday, we intend to consider 11 bipartisan measures and a number of amendments en bloc. Pursuant to notice, for purposes of markup, I now call up the en bloc package consisting of 11 measures which are: H.Res 512, Calling for the Global Repeal of Blasphemy, Heresy, and Apostasy Laws, the 11th amendment in the nature of a substitute; H.R. 5408, Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act with a Wilson amendment in the nature of a substitute; H.Res. 742, Recognizing the Continued Success of the Food for Peace Act with an Engel amendment in the nature of a substitute; H.R. 5664, LIFT Act, with a McCaul amendment; H.Res. 720, Expressing the Sense of the House of Representative that the International Olympic Committee Should Correct Jim Thorpe's Olympic Records for His Unprecedented Accomplishments During the 1912 Olympic Games; H.R. 2166, Global Health Security Act with a Connolly amendment in the nature of a substitute, and a Houlihan amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute; H.R. 2847, No Passport Fees for Heroes' Families Act with a Wilson amendment in the nature of a substitute; H. Res 723, Encouraging All Nations to End Sexual Violence Against Girls Through In-Country Data-Driven Reforms as Demonstrated by Multiple African Nations with a Wild amendment in the nature of a substitute and a Houlihan amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute; H.Res. 809, Expressing the Importance of the United States Alliance with the Republic of Korea and the Contributions of Korean Americans in the United States with an Engel amendment in the nature of a substitute; H.Res. 458, Reaffirming the Strong Partnership between Tunisia and the United States and

Supporting the People of Tunisia in Their Continued Pursuant of Democratic Reforms with a Deutch amendment in the nature of a substitute; H.R. 1611, Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-taking Accountability Act with a Deutch amendment in the nature of a substitute.

[The Bills and Resolutions en bloc follow:]



116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 512

Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws.

---

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2019

Mr. RASKIN (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## RESOLUTION

Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws.

Whereas Article 18 of the International Declaration of Human Rights states that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”;

Whereas many countries continue to have criminal blasphemy laws and punish people who engage in expression deemed by the government to be blasphemous, heretical, apostate, defamatory of religion, or insulting to religion or to religious symbols, figures, or feelings, and such punishment can include fines, imprisonment, and capital punishment including by beheading;

Whereas blasphemy laws have affected Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Baha'i, secularists, and many other groups, are inconsistent with international human rights standards because they establish and promote official religious orthodoxy and dogma over individual liberty, and often result in violations of the freedoms of religion, thought, and expression that are protected under international instruments, including Articles 18 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Committee stated in General Comment 34 that “[p]rohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are incompatible with the [ICCPR].”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has found that blasphemy charges are often based on false accusations, are used for sectarian or political purposes, and foster religious intolerance, discrimination, and violence;

Whereas USCIRF has found that at least 70 countries had blasphemy laws as of 2018;

Whereas these laws were present in 18 Middle East and North African countries, 8 countries in the Americas, 18 Asia-Pacific countries, 14 European countries, and 12 Sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the Pew Research Center found that countries with laws against blasphemy, apostasy, or defamation of religion were more likely to have severe governmental restrictions on religion, and to experience social hostilities based on religion, than countries that did not have such laws;

Whereas restrictive laws beyond those penalizing blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy further limit religious freedom, such as extremism laws—

(1) in Russia that have been used to ban Jehovah's Witnesses as an extremist organization and fueled persecution of this religious group;

(2) in China, to arbitrarily detain an estimated 800,000 to 2,000,000 Uighur Muslims in internment camps because they followed Islamic rituals and practices; and

(3) in North Korea, to detain an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 Christians in labor camps because they followed the tenets of Christianity;

Whereas an international group of experts convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended in 2012 that “[s]tates that have blasphemy laws should repeal the[m] as such laws have a stifling impact on the enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief and healthy dialogue and debate about religion.”;

Whereas blasphemy laws are inconsistent with United Nations resolutions adopted by consensus since 2011 recognizing that religious intolerance is best fought through positive measures, such as education, outreach, and counter-speech, and that criminalization of speech is warranted only for the prevention of imminent violence;

Whereas according to the annual religious freedom report published by the Department of State in 2015, attackers in Bangladesh killed five allegedly anti-Islamic or secularist writers and publishers, and injured three others;

Whereas in response to these killings, the Home Minister of Bangladesh, rather than condemning the murders, called on bloggers and others to refrain from writings that could hurt the religious feelings of others and added that violators of the warning would be subject to prosecution under the restrictive religious freedom laws of Bangladesh;

Whereas a 2016 report by USCIRF on Bangladesh found that religious and civil society groups fear that increasing religious extremism will result in more criminal attacks and threats;

Whereas restrictive religious freedom laws validate and promote social violence targeted at religious minorities and dissenters, whether Christian, Muslim, secularist, or other;

Whereas USCIRF has found that in Pakistan, blasphemy laws have been used to prosecute and persecute Muslims, Christians, secularists, and others;

Whereas according to a Pew Center report on religion and public life, Pakistan stands out for having one of the highest levels of restrictions on religion when both government restrictions and social hostilities are taken into account;

Whereas USCIRF has found egregious examples of the enforcement of blasphemy laws and vigilante violence connected to blasphemy allegations in Pakistan, where blasphemy charges are common and numerous individuals are in prison, with a high percentage sentenced to death or to life in prison;

Whereas, as of May 2018, USCIRF was aware of approximately 40 individuals on death row for blasphemy in Pakistan or serving life sentences;

Whereas Asia Bibi was sentenced to death for blasphemy in 2010 and was held for 8 years, until the Supreme Court of Pakistan overturned her conviction in 2018, upheld her acquittal, and granted her permission to leave the country to flee the threats against her in 2019;

Whereas Pakistan selectively enforces the blasphemy and anti-terrorism laws against minority religious groups, including by specifically targeting Ahmadiyya Muslims such as Abdul Shakoor, an 80-year old optician and bookseller who was recently released after serving over three years in prison on such charges;

Whereas blasphemy laws in Pakistan have fostered a climate of impunity, as those who falsify evidence go unpunished and allegations often result in violent mob attacks or assassinations, with little to no police response;

Whereas in 2017, the Christian Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was convicted for blasphemy of Islam and sentenced to two years in jail;

Whereas several countries that maintained blasphemy laws have recently taken steps towards removing these provisions, including Greece, Ireland, and Canada;

Whereas blasphemy laws in the United States were invalidated by the adoption of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which protects the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, and religious exercise; and

Whereas the United States has become a beacon of religious freedom and tolerance around the world: Now, therefore, be it

1     *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2             (1) recognizes that blasphemy, heresy, and  
3     apostasy laws inappropriately position governments  
4     as arbiters of religious truth and empower officials  
5     to impose religious dogma on individuals or minori-  
6     ties through the power of the government or through  
7     violence sanctioned by the government;

8             (2) calls on the President and the Secretary of  
9     State to make the repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and  
10    apostasy laws a priority in the bilateral relationships  
11    of the United States with all countries that have  
12    such laws, through direct interventions in bilateral  
13    and multilateral fora;

14            (3) encourages the President and the Secretary  
15    of State to oppose—

16                (A) any efforts, by the United Nations or  
17            by other international or multilateral fora, to  
18            create an international anti-blasphemy norm,  
19            such as the “defamation of religions” resolu-  
20            tions introduced in the United Nations between  
21            1999 and 2010; and

22                (B) any attempts to expand the inter-  
23            national norm on incitement to include blas-  
24            phemy or defamation of religions;



1           (4) supports efforts by the United Nations to  
2       combat intolerance, discrimination, or violence  
3       against persons based on religion or belief without  
4       restricting expression, including United Nations  
5       Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 (2011) and  
6       the Istanbul Process meetings pursuant to such res-  
7       olution, that are consistent with the First Amend-  
8       ment to the Constitution;

9           (5) calls on the President and the Secretary of  
10      State to designate countries that enforce blasphemy,  
11      heresy, or apostasy laws as “countries of particular  
12      concern for religious freedom” under section  
13      402(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the International Religious Free-  
14      dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(b)(1)(A)(ii)) for  
15      engaging in or tolerating severe violations of reli-  
16      gious freedom, as a result of the abuses flowing from  
17      the enforcement of such laws and from unpunished  
18      vigilante violence often generated by blasphemy alle-  
19      gations;

20          (6) urges the governments of countries that en-  
21      force blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy laws to amend  
22      or repeal such laws, as they provide pretext and im-  
23      punity for vigilante violence against religious minori-  
24      ties; and

1           (7) urges the governments of countries that  
2       have prosecuted, imprisoned, and persecuted people  
3       on charges of blasphemy, heresy, or apostasy to re-  
4       lease such people unconditionally and, once released,  
5       to ensure their safety and that of their families.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 512  
OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas Article 18 of the International Declaration of Human Rights states that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance”;

Whereas many countries continue to have criminal blasphemy laws and punish people who engage in expression deemed by the government to be blasphemous, heretical, apostate, defamatory of religion, or insulting to religion or to religious symbols, figures, or feelings, and such punishment can include fines, imprisonment, and capital punishment including by beheading;

Whereas blasphemy laws have affected Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Baha’i, secularists, and many other groups, are inconsistent with international human rights standards because they establish and promote official religious orthodoxy and dogma over individual liberty, and often result in violations of the freedoms of religion, thought, and expression that are protected under international instruments, including Articles 18 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Committee stated in General Comment 34 that “[p]rohibitions of displays of lack of respect for a religion or other belief system, including blasphemy laws, are incompatible with the [ICCPR].”;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has found that blasphemy charges are often based on false accusations, are used for sectarian or political purposes, and foster religious intolerance, discrimination, and violence;

Whereas USCIRF has found that at least 70 countries had blasphemy laws as of 2018;

Whereas these laws were present in 18 Middle East and North African countries, 8 countries in the Americas, 18 Asia-Pacific countries, 14 European countries, and 12 Sub-Saharan African countries;

Whereas the Pew Research Center found that countries with laws against blasphemy, apostasy, or defamation of religion were more likely to have severe governmental restrictions on religion, and to experience social hostilities based on religion, than countries that did not have such laws;

Whereas restrictive laws beyond those penalizing blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy further limit religious freedom, such as extremism laws—

(1) in Russia that have been used to ban Jehovah’s Witnesses as an extremist organization and fueled persecution of this religious group;

(2) in China, to arbitrarily detain an estimated 800,000 to 2,000,000 Uighur Muslims in internment camps because they followed Islamic rituals and practices; and

(3) in North Korea, to detain an estimated 50,000 to 70,000 Christians in labor camps because they followed the tenets of Christianity;

Whereas an international group of experts convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended in 2012 that “[s]tates that have blasphemy laws should repeal the[m] as such laws have a stifling impact on the enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief and healthy dialogue and debate about religion.”;

Whereas blasphemy laws are inconsistent with United Nations resolutions adopted by consensus since 2011 recognizing that religious intolerance is best fought through positive measures, such as education, outreach, and counter-speech, and that criminalization of speech is warranted only for the prevention of imminent violence;

Whereas according to the annual religious freedom report published by the Department of State in 2015, attackers in Bangladesh killed five allegedly anti-Islamic or secularist writers and publishers, and injured three others;

Whereas in response to these killings, the Home Minister of Bangladesh, rather than condemning the murders, called on bloggers and others to refrain from writings that could hurt the religious feelings of others and added that violators of the warning would be subject to prosecution under the restrictive religious freedom laws of Bangladesh;

Whereas a 2016 report by USCIRF on Bangladesh found that religious and civil society groups fear that increasing

religious extremism will result in more criminal attacks and threats;

Whereas restrictive religious freedom laws validate and promote social violence targeted at religious minorities and dissenters, whether Christian, Muslim, secularist, or other;

Whereas USCIRF has found that in Pakistan, blasphemy laws have been used to prosecute and persecute Muslims, Christians, secularists, and others;

Whereas according to a Pew Center report on religion and public life, Pakistan stands out for having one of the highest levels of restrictions on religion when both government restrictions and social hostilities are taken into account;

Whereas USCIRF has found egregious examples of the enforcement of blasphemy laws and vigilante violence connected to blasphemy allegations in Pakistan, where blasphemy charges are common and numerous individuals are in prison, with a high percentage sentenced to death or to life in prison;

Whereas, as of May 2018, USCIRF was aware of approximately 40 individuals on death row for blasphemy in Pakistan or serving life sentences;

Whereas Asia Bibi was sentenced to death for blasphemy in 2010 and was held for 8 years, until the Supreme Court of Pakistan overturned her conviction in 2018, upheld her acquittal, and granted her permission to leave the country to flee the threats against her in 2019;

Whereas Pakistan selectively enforces the blasphemy and anti-terrorism laws against minority religious groups, including by specifically targeting Ahmadiyya Muslims such

as Abdul Shakoor, an 80-year old optician and bookseller who was recently released after serving over three years in prison on such charges;

Whereas blasphemy laws in Pakistan have fostered a climate of impunity, as those who falsify evidence go unpunished and allegations often result in violent mob attacks or assassinations, with little to no police response;

Whereas in 2017, the Christian Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was convicted for blasphemy of Islam and sentenced to two years in jail;

Whereas several countries that maintained blasphemy laws have recently taken steps towards removing these provisions, including Greece, Ireland, and Canada;

Whereas blasphemy laws in the United States were invalidated by the adoption of the First Amendment to the Constitution, which protects the freedoms of thought, conscience, expression, and religious exercise; and

Whereas the United States has become a beacon of religious freedom and tolerance around the world: Now, therefore, be it





116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5408

To oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEADOWS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Ms. KAPTUR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To oppose violations of religious freedom in Ukraine by Russia and armed groups commanded by Russia.

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 “Ukraine Religious  
5 Freedom Support Act”.

### 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress makes the following findings:



1           (1) Russia invaded the Crimea region of  
2       Ukraine in February 2014, continues to occupy and  
3       control that region, and has exercised control over  
4       part of the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine since  
5       April 2014 through non-state armed groups and ille-  
6       gal entities it has established, instigated, com-  
7       manded, and supported, including with military and  
8       intelligence personnel on the ground from Russia,  
9       such as the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Repub-  
10      lic and the Luhansk People's Republic.

11          (2) International humanitarian law, including  
12      the Geneva Conventions, to which Russia is a signa-  
13      tory, requires Russia to respect and protect the reli-  
14      gious freedom of the inhabitants of the territory it  
15      occupies and controls, or controls through organized  
16      non-state armed groups it commands, and holds  
17      Russia responsible for violations of religious freedom  
18      in this territory.

19          (3) According to the Department of State's  
20      International Religious Freedom Reports, and other  
21      reporting, violations of religious freedom in the Cri-  
22      mea region of Ukraine since Russia invaded and oc-  
23      cupied the territory have included abduction, deten-  
24      tion and imprisonment, torture, forced psychiatric  
25      hospitalizations, fines, restrictions on missionary ac-

1       tivities, confiscations of property, including churches  
2       and meeting halls, expulsions and obstructions to re-  
3       entry, denying registration of religious groups, van-  
4       dalism, fines, and banning peaceful religious groups,  
5       and targeted groups have included Muslim Crimean  
6       Tatars, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formerly  
7       the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patri-  
8       archate, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church,  
9       Protestant Christians, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

10       (4) According to the Department of State's  
11       International Religious Freedom Reports, violations  
12       of religious freedom in the part of the Donbas region  
13       of Ukraine controlled by armed groups commanded  
14       by Russia have included detention and imprison-  
15       ment, torture, confiscation of property, including  
16       churches and meeting halls, physical assaults and  
17       threats of violence, vandalism, fines, restrictions on  
18       missionary activities, religious services, ceremonies,  
19       gatherings, and literature, and banning of peaceful  
20       religious groups, and targeted groups have included  
21       the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formerly the  
22       Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate, the  
23       Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Protestant Chris-  
24       tians, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

1           (5) The International Religious Freedom Act of  
2           1998, as amended by the Frank R. Wolf Inter-  
3           national Religious Freedom Act, requires the Presi-  
4           dent to—

5                   (A) designate a foreign country as a coun-  
6                   try of particular concern for religious freedom  
7                   when its government has engaged in or toler-  
8                   ated particularly severe violations of religious  
9                   freedom in that country over the previous 12  
10                  months;

11                  (B) to take 15 actions, or commensurate  
12                  actions in substitution, following the designa-  
13                  tion of a country as a country of particular con-  
14                  cern for religious freedom; and

15                  (C) designate a foreign country on a “Spe-  
16                  cial Watch List” when its government has en-  
17                  gaged in or tolerated severe violations of reli-  
18                  gious freedom in that country over the previous  
19                  12 months.

20           (6) On November 28, 2018, the Secretary of  
21           State designated Russia on the “Special Watch  
22           List”.

23           (7) The National Security Strategy of the  
24           United States issued in 2017, 2015, 2006, 2002,  
25           2000, 1999, 1998, and 1997, committed the United

1 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442), the  
2 President shall consider any particularly severe violation  
3 of religious freedom in the territory of Ukraine that Rus-  
4 sia occupies and exercises controls, or controls through  
5 non-state armed groups it commands, during the period  
6 of time that is the basis for the determination and des-  
7 ignation, to be a particularly severe violation of religious  
8 freedom that the Government of Russia has engaged in  
9 or tolerated.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 5408**  
**OFFERED BY M\_\_\_\_\_.**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Ukraine Religious  
3 Freedom Support Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Russia invaded the Crimea region of  
7 Ukraine in February 2014, continues to occupy and  
8 control that region, and has exercised control over  
9 part of the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine since  
10 April 2014 through non-state armed groups and ille-  
11 gal entities it has established, instigated, com-  
12 manded, and supported, including with military and  
13 intelligence personnel on the ground from Russia.

14 (2) International humanitarian law, including  
15 the Geneva Conventions, to which Russia is a signa-  
16 tory, requires Russia to respect and protect the reli-  
17 gious freedom of the inhabitants of the territory it  
18 occupies or controls, including through organized

1 non-state armed groups and illegal entities it com-  
2 mands and supports, and holds Russia responsible  
3 for violations of religious freedom in this territory.

4 (3) According to the Department of State's  
5 International Religious Freedom Reports, and other  
6 reporting, violations of religious freedom in the Cri-  
7 mea region of Ukraine since Russia invaded and oc-  
8 cupied the territory have included abduction, deten-  
9 tion and imprisonment, torture, forced psychiatric  
10 hospitalizations, fines, restrictions on missionary ac-  
11 tivities, confiscations of property, including churches  
12 and meeting halls, expulsions and obstructions to re-  
13 entry, denying registration of religious groups, van-  
14 dalism, fines, and banning peaceful religious groups,  
15 and targeted groups have included Muslim Crimean  
16 Tatars, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formerly  
17 the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patri-  
18 archate, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church,  
19 Protestant Christians, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

20 (4) According to the Department of State's  
21 International Religious Freedom Reports, violations  
22 of religious freedom in the part of the Donbas region  
23 of Ukraine controlled by armed groups commanded  
24 by Russia have included detention and imprison-  
25 ment, torture, confiscation of property, including

1 churches and meeting halls, physical assaults and  
2 threats of violence, vandalism, fines, restrictions on  
3 missionary activities, religious services, ceremonies,  
4 gatherings, and literature, and banning of peaceful  
5 religious groups, and targeted groups have included  
6 the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formerly the  
7 Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate, the  
8 Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Protestant Chris-  
9 tians, and Jehovah's Witnesses.

10 (5) The International Religious Freedom Act of  
11 1998, as amended by the Frank R. Wolf Inter-  
12 national Religious Freedom Act, requires the Presi-  
13 dent to—

14 (A) designate a foreign country as a coun-  
15 try of particular concern for religious freedom  
16 when its government has engaged in or toler-  
17 ated particularly severe violations of religious  
18 freedom in that country over the previous 12  
19 months;

20 (B) take one or more of the actions de-  
21 scribed in paragraphs (9) through (15) of sec-  
22 tion 405(a) of the International Religious Free-  
23 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445(a)), or com-  
24 mensurate actions in substitution, not later  
25 than 90 days, or 180 days in case of a delay

1 under paragraph (3), after the date of the des-  
2 ignation of a country as a country of particular  
3 concern for religious freedom; and

4 (C) designate a foreign country on a “Spe-  
5 cial Watch List” when its government has en-  
6 gaged in or tolerated severe violations of reli-  
7 gious freedom in that country over the previous  
8 12 months.

9 (6) On December 18, 2019, the Secretary of  
10 State re-designated Russia for the “Special Watch  
11 List”.

12 (7) The National Security Strategy of the  
13 United States issued in 2017, 2015, 2006, 2002,  
14 2000, 1999, 1998, and 1997, committed the United  
15 States to promoting international religious freedom  
16 to advance the security, economic, and other na-  
17 tional interests of the United States.

18 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

19 It is the policy of the United States to consider—

20 (1) any alien who, while serving as an official  
21 of the Government of Russia, was responsible for or  
22 directly or indirectly carried out particularly severe  
23 violations of religious freedom in the sovereign terri-  
24 tory of Ukraine that Russia illegally occupies or con-



1 trols, including through non-state armed groups and  
2 illegal entities it commands and supports; and  
3 (2) the spouse and children, if any, of such  
4 alien,  
5 to have committed particularly severe violations of reli-  
6 gious freedom for purposes of applying section  
7 212(a)(2)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8  
8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)(G)) with respect to any such alien and  
9 spouse and children of such alien.

10 **SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF RUSSIA AS A COUNTRY OF PAR-**  
11 **TICULAR CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
12 **DOM.**

13 For purposes of making a determination of whether  
14 to designate Russia as a country of particular concern for  
15 religious freedom under section 402 of the International  
16 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442), the  
17 President shall consider any particularly severe violation  
18 of religious freedom in the territory of Ukraine that Rus-  
19 sia occupies or controls, including controls through non-  
20 state armed groups and illegal entities it commands and  
21 supports, during the period of time that is the basis for  
22 the determination and designation, to be a particularly se-  
23 vere violation of religious freedom that the Government  
24 of Russia has engaged in or tolerated.





IV

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION**H. RES. 742**

Recognizing the continued success of the Food for Peace Act.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 5, 2019

Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

**RESOLUTION**Recognizing the continued success of the Food for Peace  
Act.

Whereas, on July 10, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act which created the Office of Food for Peace;

Whereas the purpose of the Office of Food for Peace is to promote democratic values abroad, advance freedom and peace, and help to alleviate humanitarian crises throughout the world;

Whereas the 2018 Global Nutrition Report reveals that 150,800,000 children under 5 years old worldwide are stunted as a result of malnutrition, 50,500,000 are se-

verely malnourished, and 20,000,000 babies a year are born underweight;

Whereas 16,400,000 children under 5 years old suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and require life-changing, ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF), and Food for Peace is a major contributor to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the purchase of RUTF, helping UNICEF reach more than 4,100,000 children with treatment for SAM in 2018, and supporting RUTF needs in 31 countries around the world;

Whereas undernutrition contributes to approximately 45 percent of deaths of children under 5 years old worldwide;

Whereas large numbers of vulnerable and chronically food-insecure people reside in war-torn areas including Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen;

Whereas the United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that 6,600,000 people have been internally displaced in Syria, including 2,500,000 children, and 11,700,000 people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance which includes 6,500,000 food-insecure people;

Whereas the United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that 4,800,000 people have been displaced by the ongoing conflict in Yemen, and more than 24,000,000 Yemenis are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including over 20,000,000 in need of food;

Whereas the United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that 15,000,000 Yemenis are on the brink of starvation and 400,000 children are suffering from extreme malnutrition;

Whereas up to 7,100,000 people in South Sudan require humanitarian assistance, nearly all of whom are facing

acute food insecurity and need lifesaving aid provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other international donors;

Whereas approximately 2,100,000 people in Somalia are in need of emergency food assistance due to high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher) with the most affected areas including Awdal, Bari, Galgaduud, and Hiiraan;

Whereas Nigeria, with the largest economy in Africa, still experiences massive income inequality, and almost half its population, more than 91,000,000 people, live in extreme poverty, and 3,000,000 people are severely food-insecure;

Whereas nearly half of children under 5 years old in Guatemala are stunted due to malnutrition, and in some areas the percentage is much higher, making it the highest in the region;

Whereas Latin America and the Caribbean are most vulnerable to a range of natural hazards including droughts, earthquakes, forest fires, floods, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions which require robust humanitarian assistance, including food aid;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of people who have fled Venezuela are now facing serious food shortages and other hardships, which risk both lives and the stability of the region;

Whereas women and children are disproportionately affected by food shortages and political instability;

Whereas the assistance provided by Food for Peace programs helps to address the root causes of mass migration of populations from poverty-stricken and food-insecure regions;

Whereas long-standing cooperation between Food for Peace and the United Nations World Food Programme has led to millions of people receiving critical food aid around the world; and

Whereas the largest recipients of Food for Peace aid in 2018 were the conflict-torn regions of Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen, South Sudan, and Syria, all of which have large populations of refugees and other displaced persons whose lives have been irrevocably shattered by war and its aftermath: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) reaffirms that—

3                       (A) Food for Peace is an essential compo-  
4                       nent of global food security efforts;

5                       (B) Food for Peace is an expression of the  
6                       generosity and goodwill of the people of the  
7                       United States toward the world’s most vulner-  
8                       able populations;

9                       (C) food insecurity stems from an array of  
10                      factors, including military conflict, civil strife,  
11                      economic instability, underdeveloped food pro-  
12                      duction and market inclusion, corruption, and  
13                      natural disasters;

14                     (D) Food for Peace helps to alleviate hu-  
15                     manitarian needs stemming from conflict and  
16                     natural disasters, helps to prevent the spread of  
17                     disease and malnutrition among pregnant

1 women and children under 5 years old, and can  
2 help to counteract cycles of violence; and

3 (E) Food for Peace contributes to the  
4 spread and strengthening of American leader-  
5 ship worldwide through the investment of  
6 United States foreign aid and humanitarian as-  
7 sistance and is therefore a key component of  
8 American foreign policy;

9 (2) commends the Food for Peace program for  
10 helping approximately 76,000,000 people in 59  
11 countries in fiscal year 2018, including 68,000,000  
12 people who received \$3,200,000,000 in lifesaving  
13 emergency assistance and 8,000,000 people who re-  
14 ceived \$430,000,000 in resilience-building develop-  
15 ment assistance;

16 (3) commends Food for Peace for supporting  
17 vulnerable communities around the world in coping  
18 with crises as they make their journeys to self-reli-  
19 ance;

20 (4) recognizes that—

21 (A) United States foreign assistance helps  
22 create markets for American products by reduc-  
23 ing poverty, increasing production, and creating  
24 broadly shared wealth in developing countries;  
25 and

1 (B) humanitarian assistance helps coun-  
2 tries and communities recover from serious dis-  
3 asters, crises, and emergencies, and puts them  
4 back on the road to prosperity; and

5 (5) calls for continued prioritization of funding  
6 for Food for Peace programs—

7 (A) to continue the mission of fighting  
8 global food insecurity;

9 (B) to help to reduce the number of moth-  
10 ers who lack the adequate prenatal nutrition  
11 and the healthy foods to care for their children  
12 once they are born;

13 (C) to help to reduce the number of in-  
14 fants and children facing the lifelong effects of  
15 malnutrition;

16 (D) to reduce the number of infants and  
17 children dying from malnutrition-related causes  
18 around the globe;

19 (E) to continue to support nonemergency  
20 resiliency-building efforts to address the root  
21 causes of hunger and reduce the need for future  
22 emergency assistance;

23 (F) to maximize the economic and intellec-  
24 tual potential of local communities and global  
25 markets;

- 1 (G) to support American values;
- 2 (H) to provide for the basic human needs  
3 of food and nutrition and for critical develop-  
4 ment activities;
- 5 (I) to affirm the continued commitment of  
6 the American people and their Government to  
7 helping some of the most vulnerable populations  
8 in the world at their times of greatest need;
- 9 (J) to promote democratic values world-  
10 wide; and
- 11 (K) to continue to support these principles  
12 as Food for Peace enters a new era as part of  
13 the proposed Bureau for Humanitarian Assist-  
14 ance, and to encourage alignment of food as-  
15 sistance with other forms of disaster relief and  
16 humanitarian aid to best help those in need.

○



Whereas large numbers of vulnerable and chronically food-insecure people reside in war-torn areas including Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen;

Whereas the United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that more than 6,000,000 people have been internally displaced in Syria, including 2,500,000 children, and 11,700,000 people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance which includes 6,500,000 food-insecure people;

Whereas the United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that 4,800,000 people have been displaced by the ongoing conflict in Yemen, and more than 24,000,000 Yemenis are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including over 20,000,000 in need of food;

Whereas the United Nations Refugee Agency estimates that 15,000,000 Yemenis are on the brink of starvation and 400,000 children are suffering from extreme malnutrition;

Whereas the United Nations estimates up to 7,500,000 people in South Sudan require humanitarian assistance, nearly all of whom are facing acute food insecurity and need lifesaving aid provided by the United States Agency for International Development and other international donors;

Whereas approximately 2,100,000 people in Somalia are in need of emergency food assistance due to high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or higher) with the most affected areas including Awdal, Bari, Galgaduud, and Hiiraan;

Whereas in Nigeria almost half its population live in extreme poverty, and 3,000,000 people are acutely food-insecure;

Whereas nearly half of children under 5 years old in Guatemala are stunted due to malnutrition, and in some areas the percentage is much higher, making it the highest in the region;

Whereas Latin America and the Caribbean are vulnerable to a range of natural hazards including droughts, earthquakes, forest fires, floods, hurricanes, and volcanic eruptions which require robust humanitarian assistance, including food aid;

Whereas millions of people who have fled Venezuela are now facing serious food shortages and other hardships, which risk both lives and the stability of the region;

Whereas women and children are disproportionately affected by food shortages;

Whereas United States foreign assistance helps create markets for American products by reducing poverty, increasing production, and creating broadly shared wealth in developing countries;

Whereas humanitarian assistance helps countries and communities recover from serious disasters, crises, and emergencies, and puts them back on the road to prosperity;

Whereas the assistance provided by Food for Peace programs helps to address the root causes of mass migration of populations from poverty-stricken and food-insecure regions, reaching more than 4,000,000,000 people since its inception; and

Whereas long-standing cooperation between Food for Peace and the United Nations World Food Programme has led to millions of people receiving critical food aid around the world; Now, therefore, be it

Strike the resolved clause and insert the following:

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2   resentatives—

3           (1) that Food for Peace—

4               (A) is an essential component of global  
5   food security efforts;

6               (B) is an expression of the generosity and  
7   goodwill of the people of the United States to-  
8   ward the world's most vulnerable populations;

9               (C) helps to alleviate humanitarian needs  
10   stemming from conflict and natural disasters,  
11   helps to prevent the spread of disease and mal-  
12   nutrition among pregnant women and children  
13   under 5 years old, and can help to address cy-  
14   cles of violence;

15              (D) contributes to the spread and  
16   strengthening of American leadership worldwide  
17   through the investment of United States foreign  
18   aid and humanitarian assistance and is there-  
19   fore a key component of American foreign pol-  
20   icy; and

21              (E) supports vulnerable communities  
22   around the world in coping with crises as they  
23   make their journeys to self-reliance; and

1           (2) that the United States should continue to  
2       prioritize funding for Food for Peace programs—

3           (A) to continue the mission of fighting  
4       global food insecurity;

5           (B) to help to reduce the number of moth-  
6       ers who lack the adequate prenatal nutrition  
7       and the healthy foods to care for their children  
8       once they are born;

9           (C) to help to reduce the number of in-  
10      fants and children dying from or experiencing  
11      complications from the lifelong effects of mal-  
12      nutrition;

13          (D) to continue to support nonemergency  
14      resiliency-building efforts to address the root  
15      causes of hunger and reduce the need for future  
16      emergency assistance;

17          (E) to maximize the economic and intellec-  
18      tual potential of local communities and global  
19      markets;

20          (F) to support American values;

21          (G) to provide for the basic human needs  
22      of food and nutrition and for critical develop-  
23      ment activities;

24          (H) to affirm the continued commitment of  
25      the American people and their Government to

1 helping some of the most vulnerable populations  
2 in the world at their times of greatest need; and  
3 (I) to continue to support these principles  
4 as Food for Peace enters a new era as part of  
5 the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, and  
6 to encourage alignment of food assistance with  
7 other forms of disaster relief and humanitarian  
8 aid to best help those in need.

Amend the title so as to read: “Supporting the continued success of the Food for Peace programs.”.





I

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. R. 5664

To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human trafficking, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 2020

Mr. McCaul (for himself and Mr. Engel) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to ensure adequate time for the preparation of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, require the timely provision of information to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security of the Department of State regarding the number and location of visa denials based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human trafficking, and for other purposes.

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 “Leveraging Informa-  
5 tion on Foreign Traffickers Act” or the “LIFT Act”.

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

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the annual Trafficking In Persons Report  
9 prepared by the Department of State pursuant to  
10 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (the  
11 “TIP Report”) remains one of the most comprehen-  
12 sive, timely, and important sources of information on  
13 human trafficking in the world, and currently in-  
14 cludes 187 individual country narratives;

15 (2) in January 2019, the statute mandating the  
16 TIP Report was amended to require that each report  
17 must cover efforts and activities occurring within the  
18 period from April 1 of the prior year through March  
19 31 of the current year, which necessarily requires  
20 the collection and transmission of information after  
21 March 31;

22 (3) ensuring that the Department of State has  
23 adequate time to receive, analyze, and incorporate  
24 trafficking-related information into its annual Traf-

1       ficking In Persons Report is important to the quality  
2       and comprehensiveness of that report;

3           (4) information regarding prevalence and pat-  
4       terns of human trafficking is important for under-  
5       standing the scourge of modern slavery and making  
6       effective decisions about where and how to combat  
7       it; and

8           (5) United States officials responsible for moni-  
9       toring and combating trafficking in persons around  
10      the world should receive available information re-  
11      garding where and how often United States diplo-  
12      matic and consular officials encounter persons who  
13      are responsible for, or who knowingly benefit from,  
14      severe forms of trafficking in persons.

15 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL DEADLINE FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**  
16 **REPORT.**

17      Section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protec-  
18      tion Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) is amended by  
19      striking “June 1” and inserting “June 30”.

20 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HUMAN**  
21 **TRAFFICKING.**

22      Section 115(h) of the Justice for Victims of Traf-  
23      ficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 243)  
24      is amended by striking “September 30, 2021” and insert-  
25      ing “September 30, 2025”.



1 **SEC. 5. TIMELY PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE OF-**  
2 **FICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAF-**  
3 **FICKING IN PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
4 **OF STATE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Trafficking  
6 Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104) is  
7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
8 section:

9 “(1) INFORMATION REGARDING HUMAN TRAF-  
10 FICKING-RELATED VISA DENIALS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State  
12 shall ensure that the Office to Monitor and Combat  
13 Trafficking in Persons and the Bureau of Diplo-  
14 matic Security of the Department of State receive  
15 timely and regular information regarding United  
16 States visa denials based, in whole or in part, on  
17 grounds related to human trafficking.

18 “(2) DECISIONS REGARDING ALLOCATION.—  
19 The Secretary of State shall ensure that decisions  
20 regarding the allocation of resources of the Depart-  
21 ment of State related to combating human traf-  
22 ficking and to law enforcement presence at United  
23 States diplomatic and consular posts appropriately  
24 take into account—

25 “(A) the information described in para-  
26 graph (1); and

1 “(B) the information included in the most  
2 recent report submitted in accordance with sec-  
3 tion 110(b).”.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103 of the  
5 Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.  
6 7102) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
7 paragraphs:

8 “(18) GROUNDS RELATED TO HUMAN TRAF-  
9 FICKING.—The term ‘grounds related to human traf-  
10 ficking’ means grounds related to the criteria for in-  
11 admissibility to the United States described in sub-  
12 section (a)(2)(H) of section 212 of the Immigration  
13 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182).”.

14 **SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

15 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after  
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
17 State shall provide to the relevant congressional commit-  
18 tees a report that—

19 (1) describes the actions that have been taken  
20 and that are planned to implement subsection (l) of  
21 section 106 of the Trafficking Victims Protection  
22 Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104), as added by section  
23 5 of this Act; and

24 (2) identifies by country and by United States  
25 diplomatic and consular post the number of visa ap-

1        plications denied during the previous calendar year  
2        with respect to which the basis for such denial, in-  
3        cluded grounds related to human trafficking (as  
4        such term is defined in section 103 of the Traf-  
5        ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.  
6        7102) (as amended by section 5(b))).

7        (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning with the first an-  
8        nual anti-trafficking report required under subsection  
9        (b)(1) of section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection  
10       Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107; enacted as division A of  
11       the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of  
12       2000) that is submitted after the date of the enactment  
13       of this Act and concurrent with each such subsequent sub-  
14       mission for the following seven years, the Secretary of  
15       State shall submit to the relevant congressional commit-  
16       tees a report that contains information relating to the  
17       number and the locations of United States visa denials  
18       based, in whole or in part, on grounds related to human  
19       trafficking (as such term is defined in section 103 of the  
20       Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.  
21       7102) (as amended by section 5(b))) during the period  
22       covered by each such annual anti-trafficking report.

23       **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

24       In this Act:

1           (1) LOCATIONS OF UNITED STATES VISA DENI-  
2       ALS.—The term “location of United States visa de-  
3       nials” means—

4           (A) the United States diplomatic or con-  
5       sular post at which a denied United States visa  
6       application was adjudicated; and

7           (B) the city or locality of residence of the  
8       applicant whose visa application was so denied.

9           (2) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
10      TEES.—The term “relevant congressional commit-  
11      tees” means—

12           (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
13       the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of  
14       Representatives; and

15           (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
16       and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-  
17       ate.

○

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**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5664**  
**OFFERED BY MR. McCAUL OF TEXAS**

Amend section 4 to read as follows:

1 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HUMAN**  
 2 **TRAFFICKING.**

3 (a) EXTENSION.—Section 115(h) of the Justice for  
 4 Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–22;  
 5 129 Stat. 243) is amended by striking “September 30,  
 6 2021” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

7 (b) COMPENSATION.—Section 115(f) of the Justice  
 8 for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–  
 9 22; 129 Stat. 243) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” after  
 11 the semicolon at the end;

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at  
 13 end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
 15 paragraph:

16 “(3) may each receive compensation for each  
 17 day such member is engaged in the actual perform-  
 18 ance of the duties of the Council.”.

19 (c) COMPENSATION REPORT.—Not later than 120  
 20 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

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1   retary of State shall provide to the relevant congressional  
2   committees a plan to implement compensation for mem-  
3   bers of the United States Advisory Council on Human  
4   Trafficking pursuant to paragraph (3) of section 115(f)  
5   of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Pub-  
6   lic Law 114–22; 129 Stat. 243), as added by subsection  
7   (b).





IV

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 720

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the International Olympic Committee should correct Jim Thorpe's Olympic records for his unprecedented accomplishments during the 1912 Olympic Games.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. COLE, Mr. COX of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HECK, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PERRY, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the International Olympic Committee should correct Jim Thorpe's Olympic records for his unprecedented accomplishments during the 1912 Olympic Games.

Whereas November is Native American Heritage Month, when Congress acknowledges the contributions of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States;

Whereas Wa-Tho-Huk or "Bright Path", known as James Francis Thorpe or "Jim Thorpe" of the Thunder Clan of

the Sac and Fox Nation, was born May 22, 1887, on the Reservation of the Sac and Fox Nation in Prague, Oklahoma, and died March 28, 1953, in Lomita, California;

Whereas Jim Thorpe attended the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania and established his amateur football record playing halfback, defender, punter, and place-kicker while a student, and was subsequently chosen as Walter Camp's First Team All-American Half-Back in 1911 and 1912;

Whereas prior to the 1912 Olympic Games, Jim Thorpe won the pentathlon and the decathlon at the Amateur Athletic Union National Championship Trials in Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas Jim Thorpe represented the United States as an enrolled member of the Sac and Fox Nation, the largest of three federally recognized Tribes of Sauk and Meskwaki (Fox), in the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Sweden;

Whereas at the 1912 Olympic Games, he won a Gold Medal in the pentathlon, became the first American athlete to win a Gold Medal in the decathlon, in which he set a world record, and became the only athlete in Olympic history to win both the pentathlon and the decathlon during the same year;

Whereas at the time Jim Thorpe won two Gold Medals in the 1912 Olympic Games, Native Americans were not recognized as citizens of the United States until 1924 under the Indian Citizenship Act;

Whereas Native Americans were not granted the right to vote in every State until 1957;



Whereas Jim Thorpe was voted America's Greatest All-Around Male Athlete and chosen as the greatest football player of the half-century in 1950 by an Associated Press poll of sportswriters;

Whereas Jim Thorpe was named the Greatest American Football Player in history in a 1977 national poll conducted by Sport Magazine;

Whereas because of his outstanding athletic achievements, Jim Thorpe was the first Native American inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, the Professional Football Hall of Fame, the Helms Professional Football Hall of Fame, the National Native American Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame;

Whereas the Amateur Athletic Union of 1973 restored the amateur status of Jim Thorpe for the years 1909 through 1912;

Whereas the International Olympic Committee returned duplicates of Jim Thorpe's Olympic Gold Medals to his family in 1982, but did not list him as the sole Gold Medal winner for his achievements during the 1912 Olympic Games; and

Whereas the International Olympic Committee's failure to update their records disregards the unprecedented achievements of one of the best athletes in American history, the only athlete in Olympic history to win both the pentathlon and the decathlon during the same year; the first Native American athlete to win Olympic Gold Medals for the United States, and the contributions of the Sac and Fox Nation in American history: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2   resentatives that the International Olympic Committee,  
3   through its president, should officially recognize Jim  
4   Thorpe's unprecedented athletic achievements as the sole  
5   Gold Medalist in the 1912 pentathlon and decathlon  
6   events and correct these inaccuracies in the official Olym-  
7   pic books.

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116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2166

To authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 9, 2019

Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BERA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mrs. WAGNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes.

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 “Global Health Security  
5 Act of 2019”.

### 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) In 2005, each of the 196 World Health Or-  
2           ganization member states signed the International  
3           Health Regulations to improve the world’s ability to  
4           prevent, detect, and respond to public health events.

5           (2) In December 2009, President Obama re-  
6           leased the National Strategy for Countering Biologi-  
7           cal Threats, which listed as one of seven objectives  
8           “Promote global health security: Increase the avail-  
9           ability of and access to knowledge and products of  
10          the life sciences that can help reduce the impact  
11          from outbreaks of infectious disease whether of nat-  
12          ural, accidental, or deliberate origin”.

13          (3) In September 2011, the United States and  
14          the World Health Organization signed a memo-  
15          randum of understanding to help developing coun-  
16          tries strengthen their capabilities to meet the Inter-  
17          national Health Regulations.

18          (4) In February 2014, the United States and  
19          nearly 30 other nations launched the Global Health  
20          Security Agenda (GHSA) to address several high-  
21          priority, global infectious disease threats. The  
22          GHSA is a multi-faceted, multi-country initiative in-  
23          tended to accelerate partner countries’ measurable  
24          capabilities to achieve specific targets to prevent, de-  
25          tect, and respond to infectious disease threats,

1 whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or acci-  
2 dental.

3 (5) The GHSA was funded with a  
4 \$1,000,000,000, one-time, 5-year supplemental ap-  
5 propriation that expires at the end of fiscal year  
6 2019.

7 (6) As of 2014, approximately 67 percent of na-  
8 tions have not fully implemented the International  
9 Health Regulations and built appropriate core ca-  
10 pacities to detect, assess, report, and respond to  
11 public health emergencies.

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

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

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

6           (10) In December 2017, President Trump re-  
7       leased the National Security Strategy, which in-  
8       cludes the priority action: “Detect and contain bio-  
9       threats at their source: We will work with other  
10      countries to detect and mitigate outbreaks early to  
11      prevent the spread of disease. We will encourage  
12      other countries to invest in basic health care systems  
13      and to strengthen global health security across the  
14      intersection of human and animal health to prevent  
15      infectious disease outbreaks”.

16          (11) In February 2018, the Director of Na-  
17      tional Intelligence, Daniel R. Coats, released the  
18      Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intel-  
19      ligence Community, which said “The increase in fre-  
20      quency and diversity of reported disease outbreaks—  
21      such as dengue and Zika—probably will continue  
22      through 2018, including the potential for a severe  
23      global health emergency that could lead to major  
24      economic and societal disruptions, strain govern-

1        mental and international resources, and increase  
2        calls on the United States for support”.

3            (12) In the Consolidated Appropriations Act,  
4        2018 (Public Law 115–141), Congress provided  
5        \$172,600,000 for global health security and required  
6        the President to submit a global health security  
7        strategy to Congress not later than 180 days after  
8        the date of the enactment of that Act.

9            (13) In September 2018, President Trump re-  
10       leased the National Biodefense Strategy, which in-  
11       cludes objectives to “strengthen global health secu-  
12       rity capacities to prevent local bioincidents from be-  
13       coming epidemics”, and “strengthen international  
14       preparedness to support international response and  
15       recovery capabilities”.

16           (14) In December 2018, President Trump re-  
17       leased the National Strategy for Countering Weap-  
18       ons of Mass Destruction Terrorism, which states  
19       that “Although securing dangerous biological agents,  
20       controlled chemical precursors, and nuclear and ra-  
21       diological materials is principally the responsibility  
22       of the states that hold them, it is manifestly in the  
23       United States interest that these states have both  
24       the political will and the ability to discharge this re-  
25       sponsibility. Consequently, we will work with partner

1 nations and international organizations to improve  
2 their capacity to secure dangerous materials, in par-  
3 ticular by sharing expertise to establish effective and  
4 sustainable infrastructure, human capital, and regu-  
5 latory frameworks to counter the WMD threat.”.

6 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the  
8 United States to—

9 (1) promote global health security as a core na-  
10 tional security interest;

11 (2) advance the Global Health Security Agenda;

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

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

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

21 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
22 Congress that the President, in providing assistance to im-  
23 plement the strategy required under section 6(a), should—



1 (1) coordinate, through a whole-of-government  
2 approach, the efforts of relevant Federal depart-  
3 ments and agencies to implement the strategy;

4 (2) seek to fully utilize the unique capabilities  
5 of each relevant Federal department and agency  
6 while collaborating with and leveraging the contribu-  
7 tions of other key stakeholders; and

8 (3) utilize open and streamlined solicitations to  
9 allow for the participation of a wide range of imple-  
10 menting partners through the most appropriate pro-  
11 curement mechanisms, which may include grants,  
12 contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instru-  
13 ments as necessary and appropriate.

14 **SEC. 4. GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA INTERAGENCY**  
15 **REVIEW COUNCIL.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
17 a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review  
18 Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”) to  
19 perform the general responsibilities described in sub-  
20 section (d) and the specific roles and responsibilities de-  
21 scribed in subsection (f).

22 (b) CHAIR.—The President shall appoint an employee  
23 of the National Security Council, serving at the senior di-  
24 rector level or higher, to serve as Chair for the Council.

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

4 (d) GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be respon-  
6 sible for the following activities:

7 (A) Provide policy-level recommendations  
8 to participating agencies on Global Health Se-  
9 curity Agenda (GHSA) goals, objectives, and  
10 implementation.

11 (B) Facilitate interagency, multi-sectoral  
12 engagement to carry out GHSA implementa-  
13 tion.

14 (C) Provide a forum for raising and work-  
15 ing to resolve interagency disagreements con-  
16 cerning the GHSA.

17 (D)(i) Review the progress toward and  
18 work to resolve challenges in achieving United  
19 States commitments under the GHSA, includ-  
20 ing commitments to assist other countries in  
21 achieving the GHSA targets.

22 (ii) The Council shall consider, among  
23 other issues, the following:

24 (I) The status of United States finan-  
25 cial commitments to the GHSA in the con-

1 text of commitments by other donors, and  
2 the contributions of partner countries to  
3 achieve the GHSA targets.

4 (II) The progress toward the mile-  
5 stones outlined in GHSA national plans for  
6 those countries where the United States  
7 Government has committed to assist in im-  
8 plementing the GHSA and in annual work-  
9 plans outlining agency priorities for imple-  
10 menting the GHSA.

11 (III) The external evaluations of  
12 United States and partner country capa-  
13 bilities to address infectious disease  
14 threats, including the ability to achieve the  
15 targets outlined within the WHO Joint Ex-  
16 ternal Evaluation (JEE) tool, as well as  
17 gaps identified by such external evalua-  
18 tions.

19 (E) Develop a report on an annual basis  
20 regarding the progress achieved and challenges  
21 concerning the United States Government's  
22 ability to advance the GHSA across priority  
23 countries. The data included in the report shall  
24 be disaggregated by priority country using indi-  
25 cators that are consistent on a year-to-year

1 basis. The report shall include recommendations  
2 to resolve, mitigate, or otherwise address the  
3 challenges identified therein. The report shall  
4 be transmitted to the President and the appro-  
5 priate congressional committees and, to the ex-  
6 tent possible, made publicly available.

7 (F) Conduct an overall review of the  
8 GHSA for submission to the President and the  
9 appropriate congressional committees by not  
10 later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
11 ment of this Act. The review should include an  
12 evaluation of the progress achieved during the  
13 first 5 years of this initiative, as well as any  
14 challenges faced. The report should also provide  
15 recommendations on the future direction of the  
16 initiative.

17 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-  
18 graph (1)(E) and the review required under para-  
19 graph (1)(F) shall be submitted in unclassified form  
20 but may contain a classified annex.

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

24 (1) The Department of State.

25 (2) The Department of Defense.

- 1 (3) The Department of Justice.
- 2 (4) The Department of Agriculture.
- 3 (5) The Department of Health and Human
- 4 Services.
- 5 (6) The Department of Labor.
- 6 (7) The Department of Homeland Security.
- 7 (8) The Office of Management and Budget.
- 8 (9) The United States Agency for International
- 9 Development.
- 10 (10) The Environmental Protection Agency.
- 11 (11) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
- 12 vention.
- 13 (12) The Office of Science and Technology Pol-
- 14 icy.
- 15 (13) The National Institutes of Health.
- 16 (14) The National Institute of Allergy and In-
- 17 fectionous Diseases.
- 18 (15) Such other agencies as the Chair for the
- 19 Council determines to be appropriate.
- 20 (f) SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—
- 21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of agencies de-
- 22 scribed in subsection (e) shall—
- 23 (A) make the GHSA and its implementa-
- 24 tion a high priority within their respective agen-
- 25 cies, and include GHSA-related activities within

1       their respective agencies' strategic planning and  
2       budget processes;

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

5               (C) designate, in accordance with sub-  
6       section (e), an appropriate representative at the  
7       Assistant Secretary level or higher to partici-  
8       pate on the Council;

9               (D) keep the Council apprised of GHSA-  
10       related activities undertaken within their re-  
11       spective agencies;

12              (E) maintain responsibility for agency-re-  
13       lated programmatic functions in coordination  
14       with host governments, country teams, and  
15       GHSA in-country teams, and in conjunction  
16       with other relevant agencies;

17              (F) coordinate with other agencies that are  
18       identified in this section to satisfy pro-  
19       grammatic goals, and further facilitate coordi-  
20       nation of country teams, implementers, and do-  
21       nors in host countries; and

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

1           (2) ADDITIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBIL-  
 2           ITIES.—In addition to the roles and responsibilities  
 3           described in paragraph (1), the heads of agencies de-  
 4           scribed in subsection (e) shall carry out their respec-  
 5           tive roles and responsibilities described in sub-  
 6           sections (b) through (i) of section 3 of Executive  
 7           Order 13747 (81 Fed. Reg. 78701; relating to Ad-  
 8           vancing the Global Health Security Agenda to  
 9           Achieve a World Safe and Secure from Infectious  
 10          Disease Threats), as in effect on the day before the  
 11          date of the enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 5. SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR GLOBAL**  
 13 **HEALTH SECURITY.**

14          Section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50  
 15          U.S.C. 3021) is amended—

16           (1) in subsection (b)—

17           (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at  
 18           the end;

19           (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-  
 20           riod and inserting “; and”; and

21           (C) by adding at the end the following new  
 22           paragraph:

23           “(5) coordinate, without assuming operational  
 24           authority, the United States Government response to  
 25           global health security emergencies.”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
2 section:

3 “(i) SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
4 GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall des-  
6 ignate an employee of the National Security Council,  
7 at the level of Deputy Assistant to the President or  
8 higher, to be responsible for the coordination of the  
9 interagency process for responding to global health  
10 security emergencies.

11 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not less fre-  
12 quently than twice each year, the employee des-  
13 ignated under this subsection shall provide to the  
14 appropriate congressional committees a briefing on  
15 the responsibilities and activities of the individual  
16 under this subsection.

17 “(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
18 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘ap-  
19 propriate congressional committees’ has the meaning  
20 given such term in section 9 of the Global Health  
21 Security Act of 2019.’.

22 **SEC. 6. STRATEGY AND REPORTS.**

23 (a) STRATEGY.—The Special Advisor to the Presi-  
24 dent for Global Health Security (designated under sub-  
25 section (i) of section 101 of the National Security Act of



1 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021), as added by section 6 of this Act)  
2 shall coordinate the development and implementation of  
3 a strategy to implement the policy described in section  
4 3(a), which shall—

5 (1) set specific and measurable goals, bench-  
6 marks, timetables, performance metrics, and moni-  
7 toring and evaluation plans that reflect international  
8 best practices relating to transparency, account-  
9 ability, and global health security;

10 (2) support and be aligned with country-owned  
11 global health security policy and investment plans  
12 developed with input from key stakeholders, as ap-  
13 propriate;

14 (3) facilitate communication and collaboration,  
15 as appropriate, among local stakeholders in support  
16 of a multi-sectoral approach to global health secu-  
17 rity;

18 (4) support the long-term success of programs  
19 by building the capacity of local organizations and  
20 institutions in target countries and communities;

21 (5) develop community resilience to infectious  
22 disease threats and emergencies;

23 (6) leverage resources and expertise through  
24 partnerships with the private sector, health organi-

1 zations, civil society, nongovernmental organizations,  
2 and health research and academic institutions; and  
3 (7) support collaboration, as appropriate, be-  
4 tween United States universities, and public and pri-  
5 vate institutions in target countries and communities  
6 to promote health security and innovation.

7 (b) COORDINATION.—The President, acting through  
8 the Special Advisor for Global Health Security, shall co-  
9 ordinate, through a whole-of-government approach, the ef-  
10 forts of relevant Federal departments and agencies in the  
11 implementation of the strategy required under subsection  
12 (a) by—

13 (1) establishing monitoring and evaluation sys-  
14 tems, coherence, and coordination across relevant  
15 Federal departments and agencies; and

16 (2) establishing platforms for regular consulta-  
17 tion and collaboration with key stakeholders and the  
18 appropriate congressional committees.

19 (c) STRATEGY SUBMISSION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
22 President, in consultation with the head of each rel-  
23 evant Federal department and agency, shall submit  
24 to the appropriate congressional committees the  
25 strategy required under subsection (a) that provides

1 a detailed description of how the United States in-  
2 tends to advance the policy set forth in section 3(a)  
3 and the agency-specific plans described in paragraph  
4 (2).

5 (2) AGENCY-SPECIFIC PLANS.—The strategy re-  
6 quired under subsection (a) shall include specific im-  
7 plementation plans from each relevant Federal de-  
8 partment and agency that describes—

9 (A) the anticipated contributions of the de-  
10 partment or agency, including technical, finan-  
11 cial, and in-kind contributions, to implement  
12 the strategy; and

13 (B) the efforts of the department or agen-  
14 cy to ensure that the activities and programs  
15 carried out pursuant to the strategy are de-  
16 signed to achieve maximum impact and long-  
17 term sustainability.

18 (d) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
20 the date on which the strategy required under sub-  
21 section (a) is submitted to the appropriate congres-  
22 sional committees under subsection (c), and not later  
23 than October 1 of each year thereafter, the Presi-  
24 dent shall submit to the appropriate congressional

1 committees a report that describes the status of the  
2 implementation of the strategy.

3 (2) CONTENT.—The report required under  
4 paragraph (1) shall—

5 (A) identify any substantial changes made  
6 in the strategy during the preceding calendar  
7 year;

8 (B) describe the progress made in imple-  
9 menting the strategy;

10 (C) identify the indicators used to establish  
11 benchmarks and measure results over time, as  
12 well as the mechanisms for reporting such re-  
13 sults in an open and transparent manner;

14 (D) contain a transparent, open, and de-  
15 tailed accounting of expenditures by relevant  
16 Federal departments and agencies to implement  
17 the strategy, including, for each Federal depart-  
18 ment and agency, the statutory source of ex-  
19 penditures, amounts expended, implementing  
20 partners, targeted beneficiaries, and activities  
21 supported;

22 (E) describe how the strategy leverages  
23 other United States global health and develop-  
24 ment assistance programs;

1 (F) assess efforts to coordinate United  
2 States global health security programs, activi-  
3 ties, and initiatives with key stakeholders; and

4 (G) incorporate a plan for regularly review-  
5 ing and updating strategies, partnerships, and  
6 programs and sharing lessons learned with a  
7 wide range of stakeholders, including key stake-  
8 holders, in an open, transparent manner.

9 (e) FORM.—The strategy required under subsection  
10 (a) and the report required under subsection (d) shall be  
11 submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classi-  
12 fied annex.

13 **SEC. 7. COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREIGN AID TRANS-**  
14 **PARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF**  
15 **2016.**

16 Section 2(3) of the Foreign Aid Transparency and  
17 Accountability Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–191; 22  
18 U.S.C. 2394c note) is amended—

19 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at  
20 the end;

21 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
22 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(E) the Global Health Security Act of  
25 2018.”.

1 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
4 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
7 the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
8 of Representatives; and

9 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
10 and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
11 Senate.

12 (2) **GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY.**—The term  
13 “global health security” means activities supporting  
14 epidemic and pandemic preparedness and capabili-  
15 ties at the country and global levels in order to mini-  
16 mize vulnerability to acute public health events that  
17 can endanger the health of populations across geo-  
18 graphical regions and international boundaries.

19 **SEC. 9. SUNSET.**

20 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act  
21 (other than section 5), shall cease to be effective on De-  
22 cember 31, 2024.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 2166  
OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Global Health Security  
3 Act of 2020”.

**4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5       Congress finds the following:

6           (1) In December 2009, President Obama re-  
7 leased the National Strategy for Countering Biologi-  
8 cal Threats, which listed as one of seven objectives  
9 “Promote global health security: Increase the avail-  
10 ability of and access to knowledge and products of  
11 the life sciences that can help reduce the impact  
12 from outbreaks of infectious disease whether of nat-  
13 ural, accidental, or deliberate origin”.

14          (2) In February 2014, the United States and  
15 nearly 30 other nations launched the Global Health  
16 Security Agenda (GHSA) to address several high-  
17 priority, global infectious disease threats. The  
18 GHSA is a multi-faceted, multi-country initiative in-

1 tended to accelerate partner countries' measurable  
2 capabilities to achieve specific targets to prevent, de-  
3 tect, and respond to infectious disease threats,  
4 whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or acci-  
5 dental.

6 (3) In 2015, the United Nations adopted the  
7 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which in-  
8 clude specific reference to the importance of global  
9 health security as part of SDG 3 "ensure healthy  
10 lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" as  
11 follows: "strengthen the capacity of all countries, in  
12 particular developing countries, for early warning,  
13 risk reduction and management of national and  
14 global health risks".

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

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

24 (6) In December 2017, President Trump re-  
25 leased the National Security Strategy, which in-



1 includes the priority action: “Detect and contain bio-  
2 threats at their source: We will work with other  
3 countries to detect and mitigate outbreaks early to  
4 prevent the spread of disease. We will encourage  
5 other countries to invest in basic health care systems  
6 and to strengthen global health security across the  
7 intersection of human and animal health to prevent  
8 infectious disease outbreaks”.

9 (7) In September 2018, President Trump re-  
10 leased the National Biodefense Strategy, which in-  
11 cludes objectives to “strengthen global health secu-  
12 rity capacities to prevent local bioincidents from be-  
13 coming epidemics”, and “strengthen international  
14 preparedness to support international response and  
15 recovery capabilities”.

16 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

17 It is the policy of the United States to—

18 (1) promote global health security as a core na-  
19 tional security interest;

20 (2) advance the aims of the Global Health Se-  
21 curity Agenda;

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

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

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

7 **SEC. 4. GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA INTERAGENCY**  
8 **REVIEW COUNCIL.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
10 a Global Health Security Agenda Interagency Review  
11 Council (in this section referred to as the “Council”) to  
12 perform the general responsibilities described in sub-  
13 section (c) and the specific roles and responsibilities de-  
14 scribed in subsection (e).

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

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

20 (1) Provide policy-level recommendations to  
21 participating agencies on Global Health Security  
22 Agenda (GHSA) goals, objectives, and implementa-  
23 tion.

24 (2) Facilitate interagency, multi-sectoral en-  
25 gagement to carry out GHSA implementation.

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

4 (4)(A) Review the progress toward and work to  
5 resolve challenges in achieving United States com-  
6 mitments under the GHSA, including commitments  
7 to assist other countries in achieving the GHSA tar-  
8 gets.

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

11 (i) The status of United States financial  
12 commitments to the GHSA in the context of  
13 commitments by other donors, and the con-  
14 tributions of partner countries to achieve the  
15 GHSA targets.

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

22 (iii) The external evaluations of United  
23 States and partner country capabilities to ad-  
24 dress infectious disease threats, including the  
25 ability to achieve the targets outlined within the

1 WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE) tool, as  
2 well as gaps identified by such external evalua-  
3 tions.

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

- 7 (1) The Department of State.
- 8 (2) The Department of Defense.
- 9 (3) The Department of Justice.
- 10 (4) The Department of Agriculture.
- 11 (5) The Department of Health and Human  
12 Services.
- 13 (6) The Department of Labor.
- 14 (7) The Department of Homeland Security.
- 15 (8) The Office of Management and Budget.
- 16 (9) The United States Agency for International  
17 Development.
- 18 (10) The Environmental Protection Agency.
- 19 (11) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
20 vention.
- 21 (12) The Office of Science and Technology Pol-  
22 icy.
- 23 (13) The National Institutes of Health.
- 24 (14) The National Institute of Allergy and In-  
25 fectious Diseases.

1 (15) Such other agencies as the Council deter-  
2 mines to be appropriate.

3 (e) SPECIFIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of agencies de-  
5 scribed in subsection (d) shall—

6 (A) make the GHSA and its implementa-  
7 tion a high priority within their respective agen-  
8 cies, and include GHSA-related activities within  
9 their respective agencies' strategic planning and  
10 budget processes;

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

13 (C) designate, in accordance with sub-  
14 section (d), an appropriate representative at the  
15 Assistant Secretary level or higher to partici-  
16 pate on the Council;

17 (D) keep the Council apprised of GHSA-  
18 related activities undertaken within their re-  
19 spective agencies;

20 (E) maintain responsibility for agency-re-  
21 lated programmatic functions in coordination  
22 with host governments, country teams, and  
23 GHSA in-country teams, and in conjunction  
24 with other relevant agencies;

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1 (F) coordinate with other agencies that are  
2 identified in this section to satisfy pro-  
3 grammatic goals, and further facilitate coordi-  
4 nation of country teams, implementers, and do-  
5 nors in host countries; and

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

9 (2) ADDITIONAL ROLES AND RESPONSIBIL-  
10 ITIES.—In addition to the roles and responsibilities  
11 described in paragraph (1), the heads of agencies de-  
12 scribed in subsection (d) shall carry out their respec-  
13 tive roles and responsibilities described in sub-  
14 sections (b) through (i) of section 3 of Executive  
15 Order 13747 (81 Fed. Reg. 78701; relating to Ad-  
16 vancing the Global Health Security Agenda to  
17 Achieve a World Safe and Secure from Infectious  
18 Disease Threats), as in effect on the day before the  
19 date of the enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES COORDINATOR FOR GLOBAL**  
21 **HEALTH SECURITY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint an in-  
23 dividual to the position of United States Coordinator for  
24 Global Health Security, who shall be responsible for the  
25 coordination of the interagency process for responding to

1 global health security emergencies. As appropriate, the  
2 designee shall coordinate with the President’s Special Co-  
3 ordinator for International Disaster Assistance.

4 (b) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not less frequently  
5 than twice each year, the employee designated under this  
6 section shall provide to the appropriate congressional com-  
7 mittees a briefing on the responsibilities and activities of  
8 the individual under this section.

9 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
10 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate con-  
11 gressional committees” has the meaning given such term  
12 in section 8 of the Global Health Security Act of 2019.

13 **SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

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

17 (1) should consider appointing an individual to  
18 the position of United States Coordinator for Global  
19 Health Security, as required by section 5(a), who is  
20 an employee of the National Security Council at the  
21 level of Deputy Assistant to the President or higher;  
22 and

23 (2) in providing assistance to implement the  
24 strategy required under section 7(a), should—

1 (A) coordinate, through a whole-of-govern-  
2 ment approach, the efforts of relevant Federal  
3 departments and agencies to implement the  
4 strategy;

5 (B) seek to fully utilize the unique capa-  
6 bilities of each relevant Federal department and  
7 agency while collaborating with and leveraging  
8 the contributions of other key stakeholders; and

9 (C) utilize open and streamlined solicita-  
10 tions to allow for the participation of a wide  
11 range of implementing partners through the  
12 most appropriate procurement mechanisms,  
13 which may include grants, contracts, coopera-  
14 tive agreements, and other instruments as nec-  
15 essary and appropriate.

16 **SEC. 7. STRATEGY AND REPORTS.**

17 (a) STRATEGY.—The United States Coordinator for  
18 Global Health Security (appointed under section 5(a))  
19 shall coordinate the development and implementation of  
20 a strategy to implement the policy aims described in sec-  
21 tion 3, which shall—

22 (1) set specific and measurable goals, bench-  
23 marks, timetables, performance metrics, and moni-  
24 toring and evaluation plans that reflect international



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1 best practices relating to transparency, account-  
2 ability, and global health security;

3 (2) support and be aligned with country-owned  
4 global health security policy and investment plans  
5 developed with input from key stakeholders, as ap-  
6 propriate;

7 (3) facilitate communication and collaboration,  
8 as appropriate, among local stakeholders in support  
9 of a multi-sectoral approach to global health secu-  
10 rity;

11 (4) support the long-term success of programs  
12 by building the capacity of local organizations and  
13 institutions in target countries and communities;

14 (5) develop community resilience to infectious  
15 disease threats and emergencies;

16 (6) leverage resources and expertise through  
17 partnerships with the private sector, health organi-  
18 zations, civil society, nongovernmental organizations,  
19 and health research and academic institutions; and

20 (7) support collaboration, as appropriate, be-  
21 tween United States universities, and public and pri-  
22 vate institutions in target countries and communities  
23 to promote health security and innovation.

24 (b) COORDINATION.—The President, acting through  
25 the United States Coordinator for Global Health Security,

1 shall coordinate, through a whole-of-government approach,  
2 the efforts of relevant Federal departments and agencies  
3 in the implementation of the strategy required under sub-  
4 section (a) by—

5 (1) establishing monitoring and evaluation sys-  
6 tems, coherence, and coordination across relevant  
7 Federal departments and agencies; and

8 (2) establishing platforms for regular consulta-  
9 tion and collaboration with key stakeholders and the  
10 appropriate congressional committees.

11 (c) STRATEGY SUBMISSION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
14 President, in consultation with the head of each rel-  
15 evant Federal department and agency, shall submit  
16 to the appropriate congressional committees the  
17 strategy required under subsection (a) that provides  
18 a detailed description of how the United States in-  
19 tends to advance the policy set forth in section 3 and  
20 the agency-specific plans described in paragraph (2).

21 (2) AGENCY-SPECIFIC PLANS.—The strategy re-  
22 quired under subsection (a) shall include specific im-  
23 plementation plans from each relevant Federal de-  
24 partment and agency that describes—

1 (A) the anticipated contributions of the de-  
2 partment or agency, including technical, finan-  
3 cial, and in-kind contributions, to implement  
4 the strategy; and

5 (B) the efforts of the department or agen-  
6 cy to ensure that the activities and programs  
7 carried out pursuant to the strategy are de-  
8 signed to achieve maximum impact and long-  
9 term sustainability.

10 (d) REPORT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
12 the date on which the strategy required under sub-  
13 section (a) is submitted to the appropriate congres-  
14 sional committees under subsection (c), and not later  
15 than October 1 of each year thereafter, the Presi-  
16 dent shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
17 committees a report that describes the status of the  
18 implementation of the strategy.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required under  
20 paragraph (1) shall—

21 (A) identify any substantial changes made  
22 in the strategy during the preceding calendar  
23 year;

24 (B) describe the progress made in imple-  
25 menting the strategy;

1 (C) identify the indicators used to establish  
2 benchmarks and measure results over time, as  
3 well as the mechanisms for reporting such re-  
4 sults in an open and transparent manner;

5 (D) contain a transparent, open, and de-  
6 tailed accounting of expenditures by relevant  
7 Federal departments and agencies to implement  
8 the strategy, including, to the extent prac-  
9 ticable, for each Federal department and agen-  
10 cy, the statutory source of expenditures,  
11 amounts expended, partners, targeted popu-  
12 lations, and types of activities supported;

13 (E) describe how the strategy leverages  
14 other United States global health and develop-  
15 ment assistance programs;

16 (F) assess efforts to coordinate United  
17 States global health security programs, activi-  
18 ties, and initiatives with key stakeholders;

19 (G) incorporate a plan for regularly review-  
20 ing and updating strategies, partnerships, and  
21 programs and sharing lessons learned with a  
22 wide range of stakeholders, including key stake-  
23 holders, in an open, transparent manner; and

24 (H) describe the progress achieved and  
25 challenges concerning the United States Gov-

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1 ernment’s ability to advance the Global Health  
 2 Security Agenda across priority countries, in-  
 3 cluding data disaggregated by priority country  
 4 using indicators that are consistent on a year-  
 5 to-year basis and recommendations to resolve,  
 6 mitigate, or otherwise address the challenges  
 7 identified therein.

8 (e) FORM.—The strategy required under subsection  
 9 (a) and the report required under subsection (d) shall be  
 10 submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classi-  
 11 fied annex.

12 **SEC. 8. COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOREIGN AID TRANS-**  
 13 **PARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF**  
 14 **2016.**

15 Section 2(3) of the Foreign Aid Transparency and  
 16 Accountability Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–191; 22  
 17 U.S.C. 2394c note) is amended—

18 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at  
 19 the end;

20 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
 21 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(E) the Global Health Security Act of  
 24 2020.”.

1 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
4 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
7 the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
8 of Representatives; and

9 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
10 and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
11 Senate.

12 (2) **GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY.**—The term  
13 “global health security” means activities supporting  
14 epidemic and pandemic preparedness and capabili-  
15 ties at the country and global levels in order to mini-  
16 mize vulnerability to acute public health events that  
17 can endanger the health of populations across geo-  
18 graphical regions and international boundaries.

19 **SEC. 10. SUNSET.**

20 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act,  
21 (other than section 5) shall cease to be effective on Decem-  
22 ber 31, 2024.



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**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 2166  
OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Page 9, line 17, insert “with significant background and expertise in public health or emergency response management” after “an individual”.





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116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2847

To waive the fee for the issuance of a passport for a family member of a member of the Armed Forces who is in a hospital or medical facility abroad, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2019

Mr. MITCHELL (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CONNOLLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To waive the fee for the issuance of a passport for a family member of a member of the Armed Forces who is in a hospital or medical facility abroad, and for other purposes.

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 “No Passport Fees for  
5 Heroes’ Families Act”.



1   **SEC. 2. WAIVER OF PASSPORT FEES FOR CERTAIN INDIVID-**  
2                   **UALS.**

3       Section 1 of the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 (22  
4   U.S.C. 214) is amended, in the third sentence, by insert-  
5   ing “from a husband, wife, domestic partner, child, par-  
6   ent, grandparent, brother, or sister of a member of the  
7   Armed Forces proceeding abroad to visit such member in  
8   a hospital or other medical facility;” after “funeral or me-  
9   morial service for such member;”.

○

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

2        This Act may be cited as the “No Passport Fees for  
3   Heroes’ Families Act”.

Section 1 of the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214) is amended, in the third sentence, by inserting "from a family member of a member of the uniformed services proceeding abroad whose travel and transportation is provided under section 481h of title 37, United States Code;" after "funeral or memorial service for such member;".

☒



116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 723

Encouraging all nations to end sexual violence against girls through in-country data-driven reforms as demonstrated by multiple African nations.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Ms. WILD (for herself, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TRONE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. COSTA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## RESOLUTION

Encouraging all nations to end sexual violence against girls through in-country data-driven reforms as demonstrated by multiple African nations.

Whereas the 2006 United Nations World Report on Violence Against Children galvanized many nations in their commitment to face the challenge of ending all violence, including sexual violence, against children in stating, “No violence is justifiable, and all violence is preventable.”;

Whereas sexual violence against girls is a domestic and international plague that spares no culture, country, race, religion, or ethnicity;

Whereas data from United Nations Children's Fund indicate up to 50 percent of sexual assaults worldwide are committed against girls under 16 years of age;

Whereas sexual violence against girls and the lifelong consequences impede their potential contributions to society and present a major obstacle for nations in the journey to self-reliance with political and economic stability;

Whereas the African population is predicted to double by the year 2050, resulting in the increased potential of an estimated population of 2,500,000,000 with more than 50 percent of the population 18 years of age or younger;

Whereas realizing the full potential of all Africans requires eliminating gender inequities in education;

Whereas sexual violence against children and adolescents perpetuates intergenerational poverty through factors including increased school absenteeism, decreased years in school, and early childbearing;

Whereas the economic growth of Africa is around 3 percent per year, and 4 of the top 10 countries with the fastest growing economies are on the African continent including Ethiopia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mozambique;

Whereas Africa could realize a 2 percent to 2.5 percent growth in the annual per capita gross domestic product through a 1-year increase in the average education attained per child;

Whereas sexual violence during childhood is associated with serious immediate and long-term health impacts including but not limited to higher rates of pregnancy, maternal

mortality, suicide, depression, substance abuse, heart disease, obesity, and HIV/AIDS;

Whereas girls ages 15 through 19 have the highest risk of experiencing sexual violence and currently account for 75 percent of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa totaling 1,000 newly infected young women each day;

Whereas complications of pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls 15 to 19 years of age in sub-Saharan Africa where 90 percent of adolescent pregnancies are associated with child marriage;

Whereas female genital mutilation/cutting (referred to in this resolution as “FGM/C”), an invasive procedure with no medical necessity, represents a form of gender-based discrimination, is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women and can be recognized as sexual violence;

Whereas over 200,000,000 women and girls living today endured the irreversible procedure FGM/C and according to the World Health Organization, over 3,900,000 additional girls are at risk of suffering FGM/C each year;

Whereas FGM/C causes irreparable deformation, pain, bleeding, and increased risk of HIV infection, and can result in complications such as shock, fistulas, complications of childbirth, and death;

Whereas sexual violence against children, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this resolution as the “CDC”), includes all forms of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children. This encompasses a range of acts, including completed non-consensual sex acts (such as rape), attempted nonconsensual sex acts, abusive sexual contact (such as unwanted

touching), and noncontact sexual abuse (such as threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, verbal sexual harassment, and use of explicit images);

Whereas recognizing the need for data and evidence to guide actions to end violence against children, the CDC partnered with United Nations Children’s Fund (referred to in this resolution as “UNICEF”) Swaziland (now Eswatini) and the Government of Eswatini to develop and implement the scientifically sound surveillance tool, Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (referred to in this resolution as “VACS”);

Whereas VACS are nationally representative household surveys designed to define the magnitude, nature, and consequences of sexual, physical, and emotional violence among children and adolescents;

Whereas the governments of 22 nations including 14 African nations (Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) demonstrated leadership in addressing the pandemic of sexual violence against girls through the implementation of VACS with technical support from the CDC and coordination from multistakeholders including UNICEF, Together for Girls, and others;

Whereas VACS data from over 30,000 respondents in Africa revealed—

- (1) over 25 percent of girls and 10 percent of boys experienced sexual violence before the age of 18 years;
- (2) for 1 in 4 girls, their first sexual intercourse experience was forced or coerced;
- (3) the most common perpetrators of sexual violence are people known to the victims;

(4) only about half of the victims of childhood sexual violence tell anyone;

(5) fewer than 10 percent of assaulted girls and 7 percent of assaulted boys sought care services and received them;

(6) 1 of 3 girls who experienced unwanted sex became pregnant before the age of 18 years;

(7) two-thirds of boys who experience sexual violence report mental distress later in life; and

(8) sexual violence against children and adolescents was associated with a 370-percent increase in the incidence of HIV infection, a 350-percent increase in the incidence of unwanted pregnancies, and a 200-percent increase in attempted suicide;

Whereas country-specific surveillance data from VACS were analyzed by scientists at the CDC and presented to the government-led, public and private multistakeholder, in-country team to catalyze the formation of the individual nationwide action plans;

Whereas the formation of data-driven action plans utilizes INSPIRE, a World Health Organization technical package of proven strategies to reduce violence, including—

- (1) implementation and enforcement of laws;
- (2) norms and values;
- (3) safe environments;
- (4) parent and caregiver support;
- (5) income and economic strengthening;
- (6) response and support services; and
- (7) education and life skills;

Whereas INSPIRE guided action plans resulting in significant progress in strengthening protection for youth included—

(1) in response to a 38-percent prevalence of childhood sexual violence among girls, the Government of Eswatini drafted the first law in their country making sexual abuse of minors illegal;

(2) several countries used the data to improve services for victims by establishing advocacy centers where health, legal, and social services could be accessed;

(3) countries such as Tanzania and Nigeria, where violence in schools was noted to be high, developed policies, codes, and protective guidelines for teachers and schools; and

(4) reforms in Uganda, including expansion of the No Means No! program to 20,000 adolescent girls and implementation of the Coaching Boys into Men program, contributed to a significant decrease in the incidence of rape;

Whereas the followup household surveillance, VACS, thus far completed in Kenya and Zimbabwe, revealed a significant decrease in sexual violence among children and adolescents after data-driven reforms were instituted;

Whereas sexual violence, common in the United States and around the globe at times of peace, occurs with increased incidence in settings of conflict, migration, internal displacement, and institutionalization where it is known to be used to intimidate, subjugate, and instill fear;

Whereas survivors in these adverse settings commonly experience collective abandonment and an entrenched impunity of their perpetrators; and

Whereas the strong association between experiencing violence in childhood and later perpetrating violence highlights the importance of comprehensive interventions for both survivors and perpetrators: Now, therefore, be it



1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2   resentatives that the United States—

3           (1) recognizes that sexual violence against girls  
4       remains a devastating global health, human rights,  
5       and economic problem that is both unjustifiable and  
6       preventable and impedes peace and security;

7           (2) recognizes the leadership of African nations  
8       using data-driven, in-country, government-led, multi-  
9       sector reform to end sexual violence against girls;

10          (3) encourages the commitment of all nations to  
11       address the United Nations Sustainable Develop-  
12       ment Goals including goal 16.2, “End abuse, exploi-  
13       tation, trafficking and all forms of violence against  
14       and torture of children”, goal 5, “Achieve gender  
15       equality and empower all women and girls”, and  
16       goal 5.3, “Eliminate all harmful practices, such as  
17       child, early and forced marriage and female genital  
18       mutilations”;

19          (4) encourages all nations to put into place  
20       proven methods and tools such as VACS, a proven  
21       household surveillance tool, and INSPIRE, an evi-  
22       dence-based technical package of strategies, to gen-  
23       erate and implement government-led, data-driven,  
24       comprehensive, multisector response plans to end  
25       sexual violence against girls;

- 1           (5) encourages the establishment of multidisci-  
2           plinary and integrated systems in every country to  
3           ensure that laws are put into place to protect girls  
4           and that these laws are enforced by a trained and  
5           supported criminal justice system;
- 6           (6) encourages increased global and domestic  
7           efforts to eliminate FGM/C;
- 8           (7) encourages funding for further research on  
9           the global magnitude, scope, consequences including  
10          health, social and economic burdens, and prevention  
11          of sexual violence among all children including more  
12          vulnerable populations such as children who are dis-  
13          abled, institutionalized, or homeless, children living  
14          as refugees, or internally displaced persons, and chil-  
15          dren living in areas of conflict;
- 16          (8) encourages the establishment of safe, sur-  
17          vivor-centered spaces, and advocacy centers for co-  
18          ordination of health, psychologic, and other services  
19          for survivors and their families;
- 20          (9) encourages the adaptation and application  
21          of the VACS technique in humanitarian contexts to  
22          acquire relevant data for analysis to drive planning;  
23          and
- 24          (10) encourages domestic use of the proven sur-  
25          vey and technical tools VACS and INSPIRE to ad-

1 dress sexual violence against girls in the United  
2 States.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 723  
OFFERED BY MS. WILD OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the 2006 United Nations World Report on Violence Against Children galvanized many countries in their commitment to face the challenge of ending all violence, including sexual violence, against children in stating, “No violence is justifiable, and all violence is preventable.”;

Whereas sexual violence against girls is a domestic and international plague that spares no culture, country, race, religion, or ethnicity;

Whereas data from United Nations Children’s Fund indicate up to 50 percent of sexual assaults worldwide are committed against girls under 16 years of age;

Whereas sexual violence against girls and the lifelong consequences impede girls’ potential contributions to society and impact nations in the journey to self-reliance;

Whereas sexual violence against children and adolescents perpetuates intergenerational poverty through factors including increased school absenteeism, decreased years in school, and early childbearing;

Whereas sexual violence during childhood is associated with serious immediate and long-term health impacts including but not limited to higher rates of pregnancy, maternal mortality, suicide, depression, substance abuse, heart disease, obesity, and HIV/AIDS;

Whereas girls ages 15 through 19 have the highest risk of experiencing sexual violence and currently account for 75 percent of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa totaling 1,000 newly infected young women each day;

Whereas complications of pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among girls 15 to 19 years of age in sub-Saharan Africa where 90 percent of adolescent pregnancies are associated with child marriage;

Whereas female genital mutilation/cutting (referred to in this resolution as “FGM/C”) can be recognized as sexual violence, is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women, represents a form of gender-based discrimination, and is an invasive procedure with no medical necessity;

Whereas sexual violence against children, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), includes all forms of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and encompasses a range of acts, including completed nonconsensual sex acts (such as rape), attempted nonconsensual sex acts, abusive sexual contact (such as unwanted touching), and noncontact sexual abuse (such as threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, verbal sexual harassment, and use of explicit images);

Whereas recognizing the need for data and evidence to guide actions to end violence against children, the CDC partnered with United Nations Children’s Fund (“UNICEF”), Swaziland (now Eswatini), and the Government of Eswatini to develop and implement the scientifically sound survey tool, Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys (referred to in this resolution as “VACS”);

Whereas VACS are nationally representative household surveys designed to define the magnitude, nature, and consequences of sexual, physical, and emotional violence among children and adolescents;

Whereas the governments of 22 countries including 14 African countries (Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) demonstrated leadership in addressing the pandemic of sexual violence against girls through the implementation of VACS with technical support from the CDC and coordination from multiple stakeholders including UNICEF, Together for Girls, and others;

Whereas the VACS core questionnaire was updated in 2017 to contribute to the measurement of several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals targets, including with respect to FGM/C;

Whereas VACS data from over 30,000 respondents in Africa revealed—

- (1) over 25 percent of girls and 10 percent of boys experienced sexual violence before the age of 18 years;
- (2) for 1 in 4 girls, their first sexual intercourse experience was forced or coerced;
- (3) the most common perpetrators of sexual violence are people known to the victims;
- (4) only about half of the victims of childhood sexual violence report the incident;
- (5) fewer than 10 percent of assaulted girls and 7 percent of assaulted boys sought care services and received them;

(6) 1 of 3 girls who experienced unwanted sex became pregnant before the age of 18 years; and

(7) sexual violence against children and adolescents was associated with a 370-percent increase in the incidence of HIV infection, a 350-percent increase in the incidence of unwanted pregnancies, and a 200-percent increase in attempted suicide;

Whereas country-specific survey data from VACS were analyzed by scientists at the CDC and presented to the government-led, public and private multi-stakeholder, in-country team to catalyze the formation of the individual nationwide action plans;

Whereas the formation of data-driven action plans utilizes INSPIRE, a World Health Organization technical package of proven strategies to reduce violence, including—

- (1) implementation and enforcement of laws;
- (2) norms and values;
- (3) safe environments;
- (4) parent and caregiver support;
- (5) income and economic strengthening;
- (6) response and support services; and
- (7) education and life skills;

Whereas INSPIRE guided action plans resulting in significant progress in strengthening protection for youth included—

(1) in response to a 38-percent prevalence of childhood sexual violence among girls, the Government of Eswatini drafted the first law in their country making sexual abuse of minors illegal;

(2) several countries used the data to improve services for victims by establishing advocacy centers

where health, legal, and social services could be accessed;

(3) countries such as Tanzania and Nigeria, where violence in schools was noted to be high, developed policies, codes, and protective guidelines for teachers and schools; and

(4) reforms in Uganda, including expansion of the “No Means No!” program to 20,000 adolescent girls and implementation of the “Coaching Boys into Men” program, contributed to a significant decrease in the incidence of rape;

Whereas the follow-up VACS household surveys thus far completed in Kenya and Zimbabwe, revealed a significant decrease in sexual violence among children and adolescents after data-driven reforms were instituted;

Whereas sexual violence, common in the United States and around the globe at times of peace, occurs with increased incidence in settings of conflict, migration, internal displacement, and institutionalization, where it is known to be used to intimidate, subjugate, and instill fear;

Whereas survivors in these adverse settings commonly experience collective abandonment and an entrenched impunity of their perpetrators; and

Whereas the strong association between experiencing violence in childhood and later perpetrating violence highlights the importance of comprehensive interventions for both survivors and perpetrators: Now, therefore, be it

Strike the resolved clause and insert the following:

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—



1 (1) condemns sexual violence against girls, as it  
2 remains a devastating global health, human rights,  
3 and economic problem that is both unjustifiable and  
4 preventable and that impedes peace and security;

5 (2) applauds the leadership of African countries  
6 using data-driven, in-country, government-led, multi-  
7 sector reform to end sexual violence against girls;

8 (3) urges all countries to put into place proven  
9 methods and tools such as VACS, a proven house-  
10 hold survey tool, and INSPIRE, an evidence-based  
11 technical package of strategies, to generate and im-  
12 plement government-led, data-driven, comprehensive,  
13 multi-sector response plans to end sexual violence  
14 against girls;

15 (4) remains deeply concerned by the prevalence  
16 of sexual violence and calls on all countries to ad-  
17 dress the United Nations Sustainable Development  
18 Goals including goal 16.2, “End abuse, exploitation,  
19 trafficking and all forms of violence against and tor-  
20 ture of children”, goal 5, “Achieve gender equality  
21 and empower all women and girls”, and goal 5.3,  
22 “Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early  
23 and forced marriage and female genital mutila-  
24 tions”;

1 (5) recognizes the need to fund further research  
2 on the global magnitude, scope, consequences includ-  
3 ing health, social and economic burdens, and preven-  
4 tion of sexual violence among all children, including  
5 more vulnerable populations such as children who  
6 are disabled, institutionalized, or homeless, children  
7 living as refugees or internally displaced persons,  
8 and children living in areas of conflict;

9 (6) values the adaptation and application of the  
10 VACS technique in humanitarian contexts to acquire  
11 relevant data for analysis to drive planning;

12 (7) encourages—

13 (A) the establishment of multidisciplinary  
14 and integrated systems in every country to en-  
15 sure that laws are put into place to protect girls  
16 and that these laws are enforced by a trained  
17 and supported criminal justice system; and

18 (B) domestic use of the proven survey and  
19 technical tools VACS and INSPIRE to address  
20 sexual violence against girls in the United  
21 States;

22 (8) emphasizes the need for increased global  
23 and domestic efforts to eliminate FGM/C; and

24 (9) supports the establishment of safe, survivor-  
25 centered spaces and advocacy centers for coordina-

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8

- 1 tion of health, psychologic, and other services for
- 2 survivors and their families.



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**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE  
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H. RES. 723  
OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA**

In the 8th clause of the preamble, insert “data from the World Health Organization indicates that” before “complications”.





IV

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

## H. RES. 809

Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2020

Mr. SUOZZI (for himself, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MENG, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. COX of California, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States.

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a comprehensive alliance partnership, founded in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea work closely together to promote international peace and secu-

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 809  
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea enjoy a comprehensive alliance partnership, founded in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea work closely together to promote international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea goes as far back as Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas, on August 15, 1948, the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, established on April 11, 1919, was dissolved and transitioned to the First Republic of Korea, the first independent government;

Whereas regional peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific promotes shared United States-Republic of Korea interests of prosperity and economic well-being;

Whereas United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula since the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and

the Republic of Korea (5 UST 2368) was signed at Washington on October 1, 1953;

Whereas, on May 7, 2013, the United States and the Republic of Korea signed a Joint Declaration in Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Alliance Between the Republic of Korea and the United States;

Whereas 63 years ago the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the United States and the Republic of Korea, with Protocol (8 UST 2217) was signed at Seoul on November 28, 1956;

Whereas the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States, our shared national security interests, the 9,000 South Korean civilians working to support the joint mission of United States Forces Korea and the 28,500 United States military service members currently stationed in South Korea, are best served by the conclusion of mutually agreeable, multi-year Special Measures Agreements;

Whereas the economic relationship between the United States and the Republic of Korea is deep and mutually beneficial to both countries;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is the United States sixth-largest trading partner;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is one of the fastest growing sources of foreign direct investment in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the second largest source of foreign direct investment in the Republic of Korea;

Whereas, on January 13, 1903, 102 pioneer Korean immigrants arrived in the United States, initiating the first chapter of Korean immigration to America;

Whereas the over 2,000,000 Korean Americans living in the United States contribute to the diversity and prosperity of our Nation, participate in all facets of American life, and have made significant contributions to the economic vitality of the United States;

Whereas members of the Korean American community serve with distinction in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Korean Americans continue to build and strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea; and

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (Public Law 115–409), signed into law on December 31, 2018, states that the United States Government—

(1) is committed to the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea and all related and subsequent bilateral security agreements and arrangements concluded on or before the date of the enactment of that Act;

(2) recognizes the vital role of the alliance between the United States and South Korea in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea: Now, therefore, be it

Strike the resolved clause and insert the following:



(1) recognizes the vital role the alliance of the United States and the Republic of Korea plays in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) calls for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and the Republic of Korea, including through the conclusion of mutually agreeable multi-year Special Measures Agreements; and

(3) reaffirms the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea is central to advancing United States interests, engagement, and influence in the region, based on shared commitments to democracy, free-market economics, human rights, and the rule of law.





116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. RES. 458

Reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms.

Whereas relations between the United States and Tunisia began in 1795, and the 2 countries have partnered in trade and security since the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, signed at Tunis, August 28, 1797;

Whereas the United States was the first major power to recognize a sovereign Tunisia, following its independence from France in 1956;

Whereas the people of the United States and of Tunisia share core values, such as respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

Whereas, on January 14, 2011, the peaceful mass protests of the Jasmine Revolution successfully brought to an end the authoritarian rule of President Ben Ali;

Whereas, in the aftermath of Ben Ali's resignation, Tunisians—

- (1) initiated a peaceful, consensus-based, and inclusive transition to democracy;
- (2) held the first competitive, multi-party democratic elections of the 2011 Arab Spring;
- (3) adopted a new constitution in 2014; and
- (4) held new elections under that constitution later that year;

Whereas, on December 31, 2014, after winning a free and fair presidential election, Beji Caid Essebsi was inaugurated as the first freely elected President of Tunisia;

Whereas, on October 9, 2015, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, a coalition of 4 civil society organizations, the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for the coalition's work—

- (1) building on the promise of the 2011 Jasmine Revolution; and
- (2) ensuring that the transition of Tunisia into a democracy did not descend into violence or renewed authoritarianism;

Whereas Tunisia has been the only North African country to achieve a “Free” rating by the Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World report, and has maintained a “Free” rating since 2015;

Whereas the political evolution of Tunisia stands as an inspiration for citizens of other states aspiring to establish the

institutions of democracy after a history of autocratic rule;

Whereas Tunisia suffered significant terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016;

Whereas, on October 29, 2018, a terrorist attack on Avenue Habib Bourguiba in Tunis wounded 20 people and was perpetrated by an unemployed university graduate who had been unemployed for 3 years and had no known ties to terrorist groups;

Whereas, in the aftermath of these attacks, citizens and leaders of Tunisia have reaffirmed their commitment to dialogue, pluralism, and democracy;

Whereas a significant number of Tunisian fighters for extremist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) reportedly returned to Tunisia, many clandestinely, between 2011 and 2018;

Whereas Tunisia continues to face serious threats to its security from violent extremist groups operating within the country as well as in neighboring countries;

Whereas, in July 2015, President Obama designated Tunisia as a major non-NATO ally;

Whereas Tunisia has committed approximately 15 percent of its budget to defense and interior ministries for counterterrorism in recent years, at the expense of economic and social development;

Whereas Tunisia faces economic challenges, including high inflation and high unemployment, especially among young Tunisians;

Whereas the United States Government is committed to continuing a strong economic partnership with Tunisia as its

government undertakes reforms to transform its economy to meet the aspirations of all of the citizens of Tunisia;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States, and consistent with the values of the United States, to support the aspirations of the people of Tunisia in developing a pluralist democracy and transparent, effective institutions;

Whereas, in accordance with the United States-Tunisia strategic partnership, both countries are dedicated to working together to promote—

(1) economic development and business opportunities in Tunisia;

(2) education for the advancement of long-term development in Tunisia; and

(3) increased security cooperation to address common threats in Tunisia and across the region; and

Whereas the United States Government should provide a level of funding to strongly assist and reinforce Tunisia's promising transition into a democratic, stable, and prosperous nation: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends the people of Tunisia for their  
3               commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free  
4               and fair elections;

5               (2) commends the political leaders of Tunisia  
6               for their willingness to compromise and work to-  
7               gether in the national interest;

1 (3) condemns all acts of terrorism, and extends  
2 condolences to the families of victims of terrorism  
3 and to the people and Government of Tunisia;

4 (4) commends the people and Government of  
5 Tunisia for their resilience in the face of terrorist at-  
6 tacks and their enduring commitment to a free,  
7 democratic, and peaceful Republic of Tunisia;

8 (5) encourages President Essebi, Head of Gov-  
9 ernment Chahed, and the Parliament of Tunisia to  
10 work together to accelerate economic reforms and  
11 anti-corruption measures;

12 (6) looks forward to new free and fair par-  
13 liamentary and presidential elections scheduled for  
14 the last several months of 2019;

15 (7) calls on the Government of Tunisia—

16 (A) to fully implement the Tunisian Con-  
17 stitution of 2014, including the protection of  
18 civil liberties and the establishment of new in-  
19 stitutions, such as the Constitutional Court;

20 (B) to continue its commitment to demo-  
21 cratic accountability and transitional justice, in-  
22 cluding with regard to corruption;

23 (C) to continue decentralizing political  
24 power to local governments, which is a key step  
25 toward more accountable governance and a

1 means to address long-standing issues of dra-  
2 matic regional disparity in health care, edu-  
3 cation, poverty, and infrastructure; and

4 (D) to further develop its plan to identify,  
5 prosecute, deradicalize, or reintegrate into soci-  
6 ety Tunisian fighters returned from abroad;

7 (8) calls on the United States Government to  
8 provide appropriate levels of assistance to Tunisia  
9 to—

10 (A) support democracy and civil society;

11 (B) strengthen and reform the security  
12 sector;

13 (C) reduce corruption, implement economic  
14 reforms, promote trade and investment, and  
15 maintain important and meaningful labor pro-  
16 tections; and

17 (D) support increased border security by  
18 enhancing Tunisia's capabilities to detect, iden-  
19 tify, and interdict illicit trafficking of weapons  
20 through intensive training and equipment dona-  
21 tion;

22 (9) calls on the neighbors and partners of Tuni-  
23 sia to work cooperatively with the Government of  
24 Tunisia to counter terrorist threats, secure borders,  
25 and support the democratic transition of Tunisia;

1           (10) reaffirms the national interest of the  
2       United States in continued democracy in Tunisia, in-  
3       cluding—

4                   (A) respect for the rule of law;  
5                   (B) independent media;  
6                   (C) a vibrant civil society; and  
7                   (D) universal rights and freedoms, includ-  
8       ing equal rights for all citizens and freedom of  
9       speech;

10          (11) affirms the national interest of the United  
11       States in Tunisia's economic prosperity and develop-  
12       ment, including through increased foreign direct in-  
13       vestment, tourism, entrepreneurship, technical co-  
14       operation, and strengthened trade ties;

15          (12) reaffirms the commitment of the United  
16       States Government to Tunisia, including a commit-  
17       ment to provide appropriate levels of assistance, in  
18       support of the ongoing transition of Tunisia to an  
19       inclusive, prosperous, and secure democracy;

20          (13) recognizes important partnerships, includ-  
21       ing—

22                   (A) the U.S.-Tunisia Strategic Dialogue;  
23                   (B) the U.S.-Tunisia Joint Military Com-  
24       mission;



1 (C) the U.S.-Tunisia Joint Economic Com-  
2 mission;

3 (D) the Tunisian American Enterprise  
4 Fund; and

5 (E) international educational exchange  
6 programs, including the Fulbright Program and  
7 the Thomas Jefferson Scholars Program;

8 (14) urges increased United States engagement  
9 and cooperation with the people and Government of  
10 Tunisia, including—

11 (A) Tunisia’s democratic institutions;

12 (B) civil society;

13 (C) schools and universities;

14 (D) independent media; and

15 (E) the private sector; and

16 (15) reaffirms the historic and continuing  
17 friendship between the people of the United States  
18 and the people of Tunisia.

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**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H. RES. 458  
OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas relations between the United States and Tunisia began in 1795, and the 2 countries have partnered in trade and security since the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, signed at Tunis, August 28, 1797;

Whereas the United States was the first major power to recognize a sovereign Tunisia, following its independence from France in 1956;

Whereas the people of the United States and of Tunisia share core values, such as respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

Whereas, on January 14, 2011, the peaceful mass protests of the Jasmine Revolution successfully brought to an end the authoritarian rule of President Ben Ali;

Whereas, in the aftermath of Ben Ali's resignation, Tunisians—

- (1) initiated a peaceful, consensus-based, and inclusive transition to democracy;
- (2) held the first competitive, multi-party democratic elections of the 2011 Arab Spring;
- (3) adopted a new constitution in 2014; and
- (4) held new elections under that constitution later that year;

Whereas, on December 31, 2014, after winning a free and fair presidential election, Beji Caid Essebsi was inaugurated as the first freely elected President of Tunisia;

Whereas, on October 9, 2015, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, a coalition of 4 civil society organizations, the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for the coalition's work—

(1) building on the promise of the 2011 Jasmine Revolution; and

(2) ensuring that the transition of Tunisia into a democracy did not descend into violence or renewed authoritarianism;

Whereas Tunisia has been the only North African country to achieve a “Free” rating by the Freedom House’s annual Freedom in the World report, and has maintained a “Free” rating since 2015;

Whereas the political evolution of Tunisia stands as an inspiration for citizens of other states aspiring to establish the institutions of democracy after a history of autocratic rule;

Whereas Tunisia suffered significant terrorist attacks in 2015, 2016, and 2018;

Whereas, on June 27, 2019, two suicide bombers attacked Tunisian security forces;

Whereas, in the aftermath of these attacks, citizens and leaders of Tunisia have reaffirmed their commitment to dialogue, pluralism, and democracy;

Whereas a significant number of Tunisian fighters for extremist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), reportedly returned to Tunisia, many clandestinely, between 2011 and 2018;

Whereas Tunisia continues to face serious threats to its security from violent extremist groups operating within the country as well as in neighboring countries;

Whereas, in July 2015, President Obama designated Tunisia as a major non-NATO ally;

Whereas Tunisia has committed approximately 15 percent of its budget to defense and interior ministries for counterterrorism in recent years, at the expense of economic and social development;

Whereas Tunisia faces economic challenges, including high inflation and high unemployment, especially among young Tunisians;

Whereas the United States Government is committed to continuing a strong economic partnership with Tunisia as its government undertakes reforms to transform its economy to meet the aspirations of all of the citizens of Tunisia;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States, and consistent with the values of the United States, to support the aspirations of the people of Tunisia in developing a pluralist democracy and transparent, effective institutions;

Whereas, on February 27, 2020, Tunisia named a new coalition government under the head of government, Elyas Fakhfakh;

Whereas, in accordance with the United States-Tunisia strategic partnership, both countries are dedicated to working together to promote—

(1) economic development and business opportunities in Tunisia;

(2) education for the advancement of long-term development in Tunisia; and

(3) increased security cooperation to address common threats in Tunisia and across the region; and

Whereas the United States Government should prioritize funding to support Tunisia's transition into a democratic, stable, and prosperous nation: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolved text and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the people of Tunisia and their  
3 commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free  
4 and fair elections;

5 (2) acknowledges the political leaders of Tunisia  
6 for their willingness to compromise and work to-  
7 gether in the national interest;

8 (3) condemns all acts of terrorism, and extends  
9 condolences to the families of victims of terrorism  
10 and to the people and Government of Tunisia;

11 (4) recognizes the people and Government of  
12 Tunisia for their resilience in the face of terrorist at-  
13 tacks and their enduring commitment to a free,  
14 democratic, and peaceful Republic of Tunisia;

15 (5) encourages President Saied, Head of Gov-  
16 ernment Fakhfakh, and the Parliament of Tunisia  
17 to work together to accelerate economic reforms and  
18 anti-corruption measures;

- 1 (6) calls on the Government of Tunisia—
- 2 (A) to fully implement the Tunisian Con-
- 3 stitution of 2014, including the protection of
- 4 civil liberties and the establishment of new in-
- 5 stitutions, such as the Constitutional Court;
- 6 (B) to continue its commitment to demo-
- 7 cratic accountability and transitional justice, in-
- 8 cluding with regard to corruption;
- 9 (C) to continue decentralizing political
- 10 power to local governments, which is a key step
- 11 toward more accountable governance and a
- 12 means to address long-standing issues of dra-
- 13 matic regional disparity in health care, edu-
- 14 cation, poverty, and infrastructure;
- 15 (D) to work with the United States and
- 16 other partners to expand its plan to identify,
- 17 prosecute, deradicalize, or reintegrate into soci-
- 18 ety Tunisian fighters returned from abroad;
- 19 and
- 20 (E) work with other democracies around
- 21 the world to promote tolerance and freedom;
- 22 (7) calls on the United States Government to
- 23 prioritize assistance to Tunisia to—
- 24 (A) support democracy and civil society;

1 (B) strengthen and reform the security  
2 sector;

3 (C) reduce corruption, implement economic  
4 reforms, promote trade and investment, and  
5 maintain important and meaningful labor pro-  
6 tections; and

7 (D) support increased border security by  
8 enhancing Tunisia's capabilities to detect, iden-  
9 tify, and interdict illicit trafficking of weapons  
10 through intensive training and equipment dona-  
11 tion;

12 (8) calls on the neighbors and partners of Tuni-  
13 sia to work cooperatively with the Government of  
14 Tunisia to counter terrorist threats, secure borders,  
15 and support the democratic transition of Tunisia;

16 (9) reaffirms the national interest of the United  
17 States in continued democracy in Tunisia, including  
18 the protection of—

19 (A) the rule of law;

20 (B) independent media;

21 (C) a vibrant civil society; and

22 (D) fundamental human rights for all citi-  
23 zens, including freedom of speech;

1 (10) affirms the national interest of the United  
2 States in Tunisia's economic prosperity and develop-  
3 ment;

4 (11) reaffirms the commitment of the United  
5 States Government to Tunisia, including a commit-  
6 ment to prioritize assistance, in support of the ongo-  
7 ing transition of Tunisia to an inclusive, prosperous,  
8 and secure democracy;

9 (12) recognizes important partnerships, includ-  
10 ing—

11 (A) the U.S.-Tunisia Strategic Dialogue;

12 (B) the U.S.-Tunisia Joint Military Com-  
13 mission;

14 (C) the U.S.-Tunisia Joint Economic Com-  
15 mission;

16 (D) the Tunisian American Enterprise  
17 Fund; and

18 (E) international educational exchange  
19 programs, including the Fulbright Program and  
20 the Thomas Jefferson Scholars Program;

21 (13) urges increased United States engagement  
22 and cooperation with the people and Government of  
23 Tunisia, including—

24 (A) Tunisia's democratic institutions;

25 (B) civil society;



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8

- 1 (C) schools and universities;  
2 (D) independent media; and  
3 (E) the private sector; and  
4 (14) reaffirms the historic and continuing  
5 friendship between the people of the United States  
6 and the people of Tunisia.



116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1611

To provide assistance for United States citizens and nationals taken hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2019

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. WALTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide assistance for United States citizens and nationals taken hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, and for other purposes.

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 “Robert Levinson Hos-  
5 tage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND**  
2 **NATIONALS UNLAWFULLY OR WRONGFULLY**  
3 **DETAINED ABROAD.**

4 (a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State shall review the  
5 cases of citizens and nationals of the United States de-  
6 tained abroad to determine if there is credible information  
7 that they are being detained unlawfully or wrongfully,  
8 based on criteria including whether—

9 (1) the detained individual has presented cred-  
10 ible information of factual innocence to United  
11 States officials;

12 (2) information exists that the individual is de-  
13 tained solely or substantially because he or she is a  
14 citizen or national of the United States;

15 (3) information exists that the individual is  
16 being detained in violation of internationally pro-  
17 tected rights and freedoms, such as freedom of ex-  
18 pression, association, assembly, and religion;

19 (4) the individual is being detained in violation  
20 of the laws of the detaining country;

21 (5) independent nongovernmental organizations  
22 or journalists have raised legitimate questions about  
23 the innocence of the detained individual;

24 (6) the United States embassy in the country  
25 where the individual is detained has received credible  
26 reports that the detention is a pretext;

1           (7) police reports show evidence of the lack of  
2           a credible investigation;

3           (8) the individual is detained in a country  
4           where the Department of State has determined in its  
5           annual human rights reports that the judicial system  
6           is not independent or impartial, is susceptible to cor-  
7           ruption, or is incapable of rendering just verdicts;

8           (9) the individual is detained in inhumane con-  
9           ditions; and

10          (10) the international right to due process of  
11          law has been sufficiently impaired so as to render  
12          the detention arbitrary.

13          (b) REFERRALS TO THE SPECIAL ENVOY.—Upon a  
14          determination by the Secretary of State that there is cred-  
15          ible information that the detention of a United States na-  
16          tional abroad is unlawful or wrongful, and regardless of  
17          whether the detention is by a foreign government or a non-  
18          governmental actor, the Secretary shall transfer responsi-  
19          bility for such case from the Bureau of Consular Affairs  
20          of the Department of State to the Special Envoy for Hos-  
21          tage Affairs created pursuant to section 3.

22          (c) REPORT.—

23                 (1) BIENNIAL REPORT.—With respect to  
24          United States nationals for whom the Secretary de-  
25          termines there is credible information of unlawful or

1 wrongful detention abroad, the Secretary shall sub-  
2 mit a biannual report to the appropriate congres-  
3 sional committees.

4 (2) COMPOSITION.—The report required under  
5 paragraph (1) shall include current estimates of the  
6 number of individuals so detained, as well as rel-  
7 evant information about particular cases, such as—

8 (A) the name of the individual, unless the  
9 provision of such information is inconsistent  
10 with section 552a of title 5, United States Code  
11 (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of  
12 1974”);

13 (B) basic facts about the case;

14 (C) a summary of the information that  
15 such individual may be detained unlawfully or  
16 wrongfully;

17 (D) a description of specific efforts, legal  
18 and diplomatic, taken on behalf of the indi-  
19 vidual since the last reporting period, including  
20 a description of accomplishments and setbacks;  
21 and

22 (E) a description of intended next steps.

23 (d) RESOURCE MANUAL.—

24 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act and after

1 consulting with relevant organizations that advocate  
2 on behalf of United States citizens and national de-  
3 tained abroad, the Secretary of State shall publish  
4 a resource manual for government officials and fam-  
5 ilies of unjustly or wrongfully detained individuals.

6 (2) CONTENT.—The resource manual required  
7 under paragraph (1) shall include suggested actions  
8 designed to obtain the release of unjustly or wrong-  
9 fully detained individuals, including—

10 (A) acting through traditional diplomatic  
11 and consular channels to ensure prompt and  
12 regular access for the detained individual to  
13 legal counsel, family members, humane treat-  
14 ment, and other services;

15 (B) sanctions tools including withholding  
16 assistance to the foreign government, in cases  
17 where relevant, and denying or revoking visas  
18 and freezing assets of individuals perpetrating  
19 the unjust or wrongful detention;

20 (C) submitting public or private letters  
21 from members of Congress or other individuals  
22 who may be influential in securing the release  
23 of an individual; and

24 (D) consulting with relevant legal and  
25 human rights organizations.

1 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HOSTAGE AFFAIRS.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a Special Pres-  
3 idential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, appointed by the  
4 President, by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-  
5 ate, who shall report to the Secretary of State.

6 (b) RANK.—The Special Envoy shall have the rank  
7 and status of ambassador.

8 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Presidential  
9 Envoy for Hostage Affairs shall—

10 (1) lead diplomatic engagement on United  
11 States hostage policy;

12 (2) coordinate all diplomatic engagements in  
13 support of hostage recovery efforts, in coordination  
14 with the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell and con-  
15 sistent with policy guidance communicated through  
16 the Hostage Response Group;

17 (3) coordinate with the Hostage Recovery Fu-  
18 sion Cell proposals for diplomatic engagements and  
19 strategy in support of hostage recovery efforts;

20 (4) provide senior representation from the Spe-  
21 cial Envoy's office to the Hostage Recovery Fusion  
22 Cell established under section 4 and the Hostage Re-  
23 sponse Group established under section 5; and

24 (5) in coordination with the Hostage Recovery  
25 Fusion Cell as appropriate, coordinate diplomatic  
26 engagements regarding cases in which a foreign gov-

1       ernment confirms that it has detained a United  
2       States national but the United States Government  
3       regards such detention as unlawful or wrongful.

4   **SEC. 4. HOSTAGE RECOVERY FUSION CELL.**

5       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
6       an interagency Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell.

7       (b) PARTICIPATION.—The President shall direct the  
8       heads of each of the following executive departments,  
9       agencies, and offices to make available personnel to par-  
10      ticipate in the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell:

- 11           (1) The Department of State.
- 12           (2) The Department of the Treasury.
- 13           (3) The Department of Defense.
- 14           (4) The Department of Justice.
- 15           (5) The Office of the Director of National Intel-  
16      ligence.
- 17           (6) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- 18           (7) The Central Intelligence Agency.
- 19           (8) Other agencies as the President, from time  
20      to time, may designate.

21      (c) PERSONNEL.—The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell  
22      shall have—

- 23           (1) a Director, who shall be a full-time senior  
24      officer or employee of the United States Govern-  
25      ment;



1           (2) a Family Engagement Coordinator; and  
2           (3) other officers and employees as deemed ap-  
3       propriate by the President.

4       (d) DUTIES.—The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell  
5 shall—

6           (1) coordinate efforts by participating agencies  
7       to ensure that all relevant information, expertise,  
8       and resources are brought to bear to secure the safe  
9       recovery of United States nationals held hostage  
10      abroad;

11          (2) if directed, coordinate the United States  
12      Government’s response to other hostage-takings oc-  
13      curring abroad in which the United States has a na-  
14      tional interest; and

15          (3) pursuant to policy guidance coordinated  
16      through the National Security Council—

17              (A) identify and recommend hostage recov-  
18      ery options and strategies to the President  
19      through the National Security Council;

20              (B) coordinate efforts by participating  
21      agencies to ensure that information regarding  
22      hostage events, including potential recovery op-  
23      tions and engagements with families and exter-  
24      nal actors (including foreign governments), is  
25      appropriately shared within the United States

1 Government to facilitate a coordinated response  
2 to a hostage-taking;

3 (C) assess and track all hostage-takings of  
4 United States nationals abroad and provide reg-  
5 ular reports to the President on the status of  
6 such cases and any measures being taken to-  
7 ward the hostages' safe recovery;

8 (D) provide a forum for intelligence shar-  
9 ing and, with the support of the Director of Na-  
10 tional Intelligence, coordinate the declassifica-  
11 tion of relevant information;

12 (E) coordinate efforts by participating  
13 agencies to provide appropriate support and as-  
14 sistance to hostages and their families in a co-  
15 ordinated and consistent manner and to provide  
16 families with timely information regarding sig-  
17 nificant events in their cases;

18 (F) make recommendations to agencies in  
19 order to reduce the likelihood of United States  
20 nationals' being taken hostage abroad and en-  
21 hance United States Government preparation to  
22 maximize the probability of a favorable outcome  
23 following a hostage-taking; and

1 (G) coordinate with agencies regarding  
2 congressional, media, and other public inquiries  
3 pertaining to hostage events.

4 **SEC. 5. HOSTAGE RESPONSE GROUP.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
6 a Hostage Response Group, to be convened on a regular  
7 basis, as well as upon the request of the National Security  
8 Council, to further the safe recovery of United States na-  
9 tionals held abroad, and to be tasked with coordinating  
10 the United States Government response to other hostage-  
11 takings occurring abroad in which the United States has  
12 a national interest.

13 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The regular members of the Hos-  
14 tage Response Group shall include the Director of the  
15 Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Hostage Recovery Fu-  
16 sion Cell's Family Engagement Coordinator, the Special  
17 Envoy appointed pursuant to section 3, and representa-  
18 tives from the Department of the Treasury, the Depart-  
19 ment of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Federal  
20 Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Director of Na-  
21 tional Intelligence, and other agencies as the President,  
22 from time to time, may designate.

23 (c) DUTIES.—The Hostage Recovery Group shall—

1           (1) identify and recommend hostage recovery  
2       options and strategies to the President through the  
3       National Security Council;

4           (2) coordinate the development and implemen-  
5       tation of United States hostage recovery policies,  
6       strategies, and procedures;

7           (3) receive regular updates from the Hostage  
8       Recovery Fusion Cell on the status of United States  
9       nationals being held hostage abroad and measures  
10      being taken to effect the hostages' safe recovery;

11          (4) coordinate the provision of policy guidance  
12      to the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, including re-  
13      viewing recovery options proposed by the Hostage  
14      Recovery Fusion Cell and working to resolve dis-  
15      putes within the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell; and

16          (5) where higher-level guidance is required,  
17      make recommendations to the National Security  
18      Council.

19      (d) MEETINGS.—The Hostage Response Group shall  
20      meet regularly.

21      (e) REPORTING.—The Hostage Response Group shall  
22      regularly provide recommendations on hostage recovery  
23      options and strategies to the National Security Council.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the  
3 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any  
4 foreign person the President determines, based on credible  
5 evidence—

6 (1) is responsible for or complicit in, or respon-  
7 sible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing,  
8 the unlawful or wrongful detention abroad of a  
9 United States national;

10 (2) acts as an agent of or on behalf of a foreign  
11 person in a matter relating to an activity described  
12 in paragraph (1); or

13 (3) materially assists, sponsors, or provides fi-  
14 nancial, material, or technological support for, or  
15 goods or services in support of, an activity described  
16 in paragraph (1).

17 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-  
18 scribed in this subsection are the following:

19 (1) INADMISSIBILITY TO UNITED STATES.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a foreign  
21 person who is an individual—

22 (i) ineligibility to receive a visa to  
23 enter the United States or to be admitted  
24 to the United States; or

25 (ii) if the individual has been issued a  
26 visa or other documentation, revocation, in

1           accordance with section 221(i) of the Im-  
2           migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
3           1201(i)), of the visa or other documenta-  
4           tion.

5           (B) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED  
6           NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND  
7           LAW ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES.—Sanctions  
8           under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an  
9           individual if admitting the individual into the  
10          United States would further important law en-  
11          forcement objectives or is necessary to permit  
12          the United States to comply with the Agree-  
13          ment regarding the Headquarters of the United  
14          Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,  
15          1947, and entered into force November 21,  
16          1947, between the United Nations and the  
17          United States, or other applicable international  
18          obligations of the United States.

19          (2) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—

20               (A) IN GENERAL.—The blocking, in ac-  
21               cordance with the International Emergency  
22               Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.),  
23               of all transactions in all property and interests  
24               in property of a foreign person if such property  
25               and interests in property are in the United

1 States, come within the United States, or are or  
2 come within the possession or control of a  
3 United States person.

4 (B) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMER-  
5 GENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of  
6 section 202 of the International Emergency  
7 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall  
8 not apply for purposes of this section.

9 (C) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTA-  
10 TION OF GOODS.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—The authority to  
12 block and prohibit all transactions in all  
13 property and interests in property under  
14 subparagraph (A) shall not include the au-  
15 thority to impose sanctions on the importa-  
16 tion of goods.

17 (ii) GOOD.—In this subparagraph, the  
18 term “good” means any article, natural or  
19 man-made substance, material, supply or  
20 manufactured product, including inspection  
21 and test equipment, and excluding tech-  
22 nical data.

23 (c) ENFORCEMENT OF BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—

24 A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to  
25 violate, or causes a violation of subsection (b)(2) or any

1 regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that sub-  
2 section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in sub-  
3 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International  
4 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the  
5 same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-  
6 scribed in subsection (a) of that section.

7 (d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President  
8 may terminate the application of sanctions under this sec-  
9 tion with respect to a person if the President determines  
10 and reports to the appropriate congressional committees  
11 not later than 15 days before the termination of the sanc-  
12 tions that—

13 (1) credible information exists that the person  
14 did not engage in the activity for which sanctions  
15 were imposed;

16 (2) the person has been prosecuted appro-  
17 priately for the activity for which sanctions were im-  
18 posed;

19 (3) the person has credibly demonstrated a sig-  
20 nificant change in behavior, has paid an appropriate  
21 consequence for the activity for which sanctions were  
22 imposed, and has credibly committed to not engage  
23 in an activity described in subsection (a) in the fu-  
24 ture; or



1 (4) the termination of the sanctions is in the  
2 national security interests of the United States.

3 (e) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall  
4 issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are nec-  
5 essary to carry out this section.

6 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
8 son” has the meaning given that term in section  
9 595.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (as  
10 in effect on the day before the date of the enactment  
11 of this Act).

12 (2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
13 “United States person” has the meaning given that  
14 term in section 595.315 of title 31, Code of Federal  
15 Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date  
16 of the enactment of this Act).

17 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

18 (a) DEFINITIONS.—

19 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
20 TEES.—In this Act, the term “appropriate congres-  
21 sional committees” means—

22 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations,  
23 the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-  
24 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-  
25 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Com-

1 committee on Armed Services, and the Select Com-  
2 mittee on Intelligence of the United States Sen-  
3 ate; and

4 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
5 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee  
6 on Financial Services, the Committee on the  
7 Judiciary, the Committee on Armed Services,  
8 and the Permanent Select Committee on Intel-  
9 ligence of the House of Representatives.

10 (2) UNITED STATES NATIONAL.—The term  
11 “United States national” means—

12 (A) a United States national as defined in  
13 section 101(a)(22) or section 308 of the Immi-  
14 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
15 1101(a)(22), 8 U.S.C. 1408); and

16 (B) a lawful permanent resident alien with  
17 significant ties to the United States.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 1611  
OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH OF FLORIDA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Robert Levinson Hos-  
3 tage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND  
5 UNITED STATES NATIONALS UNLAWFULLY  
6 OR WRONGFULLY DETAINED ABROAD.**

7       (a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State shall review the  
8 cases of United States citizens and United States nation-  
9 als detained abroad to determine if there is credible infor-  
10 mation that they are being detained unlawfully or wrong-  
11 fully, based on criteria which may include whether—

12           (1) the detained individual has presented cred-  
13 ible information of factual innocence to United  
14 States officials;

15           (2) information exists that the individual is de-  
16 tained solely or substantially because he or she is a  
17 United States citizen or United States national;

1           (3) information exists that the individual is  
2       being detained in violation of internationally pro-  
3       tected rights and freedoms, such as freedom of ex-  
4       pression, association, assembly, and religion;

5           (4) the individual is being detained in violation  
6       of the laws of the detaining country;

7           (5) independent nongovernmental organizations  
8       or journalists have raised legitimate questions about  
9       the innocence of the detained individual;

10          (6) the United States embassy in the country  
11       where the individual is detained has received credible  
12       reports that the detention is a pretext;

13          (7) the individual is detained in a country  
14       where the Department of State has determined in its  
15       annual human rights reports that the judicial system  
16       is not independent or impartial, is susceptible to cor-  
17       ruption, or is incapable of rendering just verdicts;

18          (8) the individual is detained in inhumane con-  
19       ditions; and

20          (9) the international right to due process of law  
21       has been sufficiently impaired so as to render the  
22       detention arbitrary.

23       (b) REFERRALS TO THE SPECIAL ENVOY.—Upon a  
24       determination by the Secretary of State that there is cred-  
25       ible information that the detention of a United States na-

1 tional abroad is unlawful or wrongful, and regardless of  
2 whether the detention is by a foreign government or a non-  
3 governmental actor, the Secretary shall transfer responsi-  
4 bility for such case from the Bureau of Consular Affairs  
5 of the Department of State to the Special Envoy for Hos-  
6 tage Affairs created pursuant to section 3.

7 (c) REPORT.—

8 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State  
10 shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
11 committees an annual report with respect to  
12 United States nationals for whom the Secretary  
13 determines there is credible information of un-  
14 lawful or wrongful detention abroad.

15 (B) FORM.—The report required under  
16 this paragraph shall be submitted in unclassi-  
17 fied form, but may contain a classified annex if  
18 necessary.

19 (2) CONTENT.—The report required under  
20 paragraph (1) shall include current estimates of the  
21 number of individuals so detained, as well as rel-  
22 evant information about particular cases, such as—

23 (A) the name of the individual, unless the  
24 provision of such information is inconsistent  
25 with section 552a of title 5, United States Code

1 (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of  
2 1974”);

3 (B) basic facts about the case;

4 (C) a summary of the information that  
5 such individual may be detained unlawfully or  
6 wrongfully;

7 (D) a description of specific efforts, legal  
8 and diplomatic, taken on behalf of the indi-  
9 vidual since the last reporting period, including  
10 a description of accomplishments and setbacks;  
11 and

12 (E) a description of intended next steps.

13 (d) FAMILY RESOURCE GUIDANCE.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days  
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act and after  
16 consulting with relevant organizations that advocate  
17 on behalf of United States citizens and United  
18 States nationals detained abroad, the Secretary of  
19 State shall provide resource guidance in writing for  
20 government officials and families of unjustly or  
21 wrongfully detained individuals.

22 (2) CONTENT.—The guidance required under  
23 paragraph (1) may include suggested actions de-  
24 signed on a case-by-case basis to obtain the release

1 of unjustly or wrongfully detained individuals, which  
2 may include—

3 (A) acting through traditional diplomatic  
4 and consular channels to ensure prompt and  
5 regular access for the detained individual to  
6 legal counsel, family members, humane treat-  
7 ment, and other services;

8 (B) sanctions tools including withholding  
9 assistance to the foreign government, in cases  
10 where relevant, and denying or revoking visas  
11 and freezing assets of individuals perpetrating  
12 the unjust or wrongful detention;

13 (C) submitting public or private letters  
14 from members of Congress or other individuals  
15 who may be influential in securing the release  
16 of an individual; and

17 (D) consulting with relevant legal and  
18 human rights organizations.

19 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HOSTAGE AFFAIRS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is within the office of  
21 the Secretary of State a Special Presidential Envoy for  
22 Hostage Affairs.

23 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Presidential  
24 Envoy for Hostage Affairs, under the supervision of the  
25 Secretary of State, shall—

1           (1) lead diplomatic engagement on United  
2 States hostage policy;

3           (2) coordinate all diplomatic engagements in  
4 support of hostage recovery efforts, in coordination  
5 with the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell and con-  
6 sistent with policy guidance communicated through  
7 the Hostage Response Group;

8           (3) coordinate with the Hostage Recovery Fu-  
9 sion Cell proposals for diplomatic engagements and  
10 strategy in support of hostage recovery efforts;

11          (4) provide senior representation from the Spe-  
12 cial Envoy's office to the Hostage Recovery Fusion  
13 Cell established under section 4 and the Hostage Re-  
14 sponse Group established under section 5; and

15          (5) in coordination with the Hostage Recovery  
16 Fusion Cell as appropriate, coordinate diplomatic  
17 engagements regarding cases in which a foreign gov-  
18 ernment confirms that it has detained a United  
19 States national but the United States Government  
20 regards such detention as unlawful or wrongful.

21 **SEC. 4. HOSTAGE RECOVERY FUSION CELL.**

22          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
23 an interagency Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell.

24          (b) PARTICIPATION.—The President shall direct the  
25 heads of each of the following executive departments,



1 agencies, and offices to make available personnel to par-  
2 ticipate in the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell:

- 3 (1) The Department of State.
- 4 (2) The Department of the Treasury.
- 5 (3) The Department of Defense.
- 6 (4) The Department of Justice.
- 7 (5) The Office of the Director of National Intel-  
8 ligence.
- 9 (6) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- 10 (7) The Central Intelligence Agency.
- 11 (8) Other agencies as the President, from time  
12 to time, may designate.

13 (c) PERSONNEL.—The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell  
14 shall have—

- 15 (1) a Director, who shall be a full-time senior  
16 officer or employee of the United States Govern-  
17 ment;
- 18 (2) a Family Engagement Coordinator, who  
19 shall work to ensure that all interactions by execu-  
20 tive branch officials with a hostage's family occur in  
21 a coordinated fashion and that the family receives  
22 consistent and accurate information from the United  
23 States Government; and
- 24 (3) other officers and employees as determined  
25 to be appropriate by the President.

1 (d) DUTIES.—The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell  
2 shall—

3 (1) coordinate efforts by participating agencies  
4 to ensure that all relevant information, expertise,  
5 and resources are brought to bear to secure the safe  
6 recovery of United States nationals held hostage  
7 abroad;

8 (2) if directed, coordinate the United States  
9 Government's response to other hostage-takings oc-  
10 ccurring abroad in which the United States has a na-  
11 tional interest; and

12 (3) pursuant to policy guidance coordinated  
13 through the National Security Council—

14 (A) identify and recommend hostage recov-  
15 ery options and strategies to the President  
16 through the National Security Council or the  
17 Deputies Committee of the National Security  
18 Council;

19 (B) coordinate efforts by participating  
20 agencies to ensure that information regarding  
21 hostage events, including potential recovery op-  
22 tions and engagements with families and exter-  
23 nal actors (including foreign governments), is  
24 appropriately shared within the United States

1 Government to facilitate a coordinated response  
2 to a hostage-taking;

3 (C) assess and track all hostage-takings of  
4 United States nationals abroad and provide reg-  
5 ular reports to the President on the status of  
6 such cases and any measures being taken to-  
7 ward the hostages' safe recovery;

8 (D) provide a forum for intelligence shar-  
9 ing and, with the support of the Director of Na-  
10 tional Intelligence, coordinate the declassifica-  
11 tion of relevant information;

12 (E) coordinate efforts by participating  
13 agencies to provide appropriate support and as-  
14 sistance to hostages and their families in a co-  
15 ordinated and consistent manner and to provide  
16 families with timely information regarding sig-  
17 nificant events in their cases; and

18 (F) make recommendations to agencies in  
19 order to reduce the likelihood of United States  
20 nationals' being taken hostage abroad and en-  
21 hance United States Government preparation to  
22 maximize the probability of a favorable outcome  
23 following a hostage-taking.

1 **SEC. 5. HOSTAGE RESPONSE GROUP.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish  
3 a Hostage Response Group, to be convened on a regular  
4 basis, as well as upon the request of the National Security  
5 Council, to further the safe recovery of United States na-  
6 tionals held abroad, and to be tasked with coordinating  
7 the United States Government response to other hostage-  
8 takings occurring abroad in which the United States has  
9 a national interest.

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The regular members of the Hos-  
11 tage Response Group shall include the Director of the  
12 Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Hostage Recovery Fu-  
13 sion Cell's Family Engagement Coordinator, the Special  
14 Envoy appointed pursuant to section 3, and representa-  
15 tives from the Department of the Treasury, the Depart-  
16 ment of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Federal  
17 Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Director of Na-  
18 tional Intelligence, and other agencies as the President,  
19 from time to time, may designate.

20 (c) DUTIES.—The Hostage Recovery Group shall—  
21 (1) identify and recommend hostage recovery  
22 options and strategies to the President through the  
23 National Security Council or the Deputies Com-  
24 mittee of the National Security Council;

1 (2) coordinate the development and implemen-  
2 tation of United States hostage recovery policies,  
3 strategies, and procedures;

4 (3) receive regular updates from the Hostage  
5 Recovery Fusion Cell on the status of United States  
6 nationals being held hostage abroad and measures  
7 being taken to effect the hostages' safe recovery;

8 (4) coordinate the provision of policy guidance  
9 to the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, including re-  
10 viewing recovery options proposed by the Hostage  
11 Recovery Fusion Cell and working to resolve dis-  
12 putes within the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell; and

13 (5) where higher-level guidance is required,  
14 make recommendations to the National Security  
15 Council or the Deputies Committee of the National  
16 Security Council.

17 (d) MEETINGS.—The Hostage Response Group shall  
18 meet regularly.

19 (e) REPORTING.—The Hostage Response Group shall  
20 regularly provide recommendations on hostage recovery  
21 options and strategies to the National Security Council.

22 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the  
24 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any

1 foreign person the President determines, based on credible  
2 evidence—

3 (1) is responsible for or complicit in, or respon-  
4 sible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing,  
5 the unlawful or wrongful detention abroad of a  
6 United States national;

7 (2) acts as an agent of or on behalf of a foreign  
8 person in a matter relating to an activity described  
9 in paragraph (1); or

10 (3) materially assists, sponsors, or provides fi-  
11 nancial, material, or technological support for, or  
12 goods or services in support of, an activity described  
13 in paragraph (1).

14 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-  
15 scribed in this subsection are the following:

16 (1) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR  
17 PAROLE.—

18 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A  
19 foreign person who is an individual described in  
20 subsection (a) is—

21 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

22 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other  
23 documentation to enter the United States;

24 and

1 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted  
2 or paroled into the United States or to re-  
3 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-  
4 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et  
5 seq.).

6 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

7 (i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other  
8 entry documentation of a foreign person  
9 who is an individual described in sub-  
10 section (a) shall be revoked, regardless of  
11 when such visa or other entry documenta-  
12 tion is or was issued.

13 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-  
14 tion under clause (i) shall—

15 (I) take effect immediately; and

16 (II) automatically cancel any  
17 other valid visa or entry documenta-  
18 tion that is in the foreign person's  
19 possession.

20 (2) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The blocking, in ac-  
22 cordance with the International Emergency  
23 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.),  
24 of all transactions in all property and interests  
25 in property of a foreign person if such property

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1 and interests in property are in the United  
2 States, come within the United States, or are or  
3 come within the possession or control of a  
4 United States person.

5 (B) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMER-  
6 GENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of  
7 section 202 of the International Emergency  
8 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall  
9 not apply for purposes of this section.

10 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

11 (1) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH NATIONAL  
12 SECURITY.—The following activities shall be exempt  
13 from sanctions under this section:

14 (A) Activities subject to the reporting re-  
15 quirements under title V of the National Secu-  
16 rity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.).

17 (B) Any authorized intelligence or law en-  
18 forcement activities of the United States.

19 (2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-  
20 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under sub-  
21 section (b)(1) shall not apply with respect to an  
22 alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the  
23 United States is necessary to permit the United  
24 States to comply with the Agreement regarding the  
25 Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake



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1 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force No-  
2 vember 21, 1947, between the United Nations and  
3 the United States, or other applicable international  
4 obligations of the United States.

5 (3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF  
6 GOODS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and re-  
8 quirements to impose sanctions authorized  
9 under subsection (b)(2) shall not include the  
10 authority or a requirement to impose sanctions  
11 on the importation of goods.

12 (B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph,  
13 the term “good” means any article, natural or  
14 manmade substance, material, supply, or manu-  
15 factured product, including inspection and test  
16 equipment, and excluding technical data.

17 (d) ENFORCEMENT OF BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—  
18 A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to  
19 violate, or causes a violation of subsection (b)(2) or any  
20 regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that sub-  
21 section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in sub-  
22 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International  
23 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the  
24 same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-  
25 scribed in subsection (a) of that section.

1 (e) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President  
2 may terminate the application of sanctions under this sec-  
3 tion with respect to a person if the President determines  
4 and reports to the appropriate congressional committees  
5 not later than 15 days before the termination of the sanc-  
6 tions that—

7 (1) credible information exists that the person  
8 did not engage in the activity for which sanctions  
9 were imposed;

10 (2) the person has been prosecuted appro-  
11 priately for the activity for which sanctions were im-  
12 posed;

13 (3) the person has credibly demonstrated a sig-  
14 nificant change in behavior, has paid an appropriate  
15 consequence for the activity for which sanctions were  
16 imposed, and has credibly committed to not engage  
17 in an activity described in subsection (a) in the fu-  
18 ture; or

19 (4) the termination of the sanctions is in the  
20 national security interests of the United States.

21 (f) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall  
22 issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are nec-  
23 essary to carry out this section.

24 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
2 son” means an individual or entity that is not a  
3 United States person.

4 (2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
5 “United States person” means—

6 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-  
7 fully admitted for permanent residence to the  
8 United States; or

9 (B) an entity organized under the laws of  
10 the United States or any jurisdiction within the  
11 United States, including a foreign branch of  
12 such an entity.

13 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
16 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
17 mittees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations,  
19 the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-  
20 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-  
21 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Com-  
22 mittee on Armed Services, and the Select Com-  
23 mittee on Intelligence of the United States Sen-  
24 ate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
2 Committee on Appropriations, the Committee  
3 on Financial Services, the Committee on the  
4 Judiciary, the Committee on Armed Services,  
5 and the Permanent Select Committee on Intel-  
6 ligence of the House of Representatives.

7 (2) UNITED STATES NATIONAL.—The term  
8 “United States national” means—

9 (A) a national of the United States, as  
10 such term is defined in section 101(a)(22) of  
11 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
12 1101(a)(22)) or an individual described in sec-  
13 tion 308 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1408); or

14 (B) a lawful permanent resident alien with  
15 significant ties to the United States.



The CHAIRMAN. At this time, I recognize myself to speak on today's business. I am pleased to support all of the bipartisan measures before us today and I thank our members for their hard work. I will keep my remarks brief and highlight just a few of the 11 bills in resolution.

First, I will start with Mr. Connolly's Global Health Security Act. We can see clearly right now just how important it is to invest in smart, effective global health policy. Pandemics, like coronavirus, do not stop at borders, so it is critical that our government effectively coordinates the response to outbreaks here and abroad. We used to have a key coordinating body in the White House charged with that task. Under the Obama Administration, these experts directed our responses to the Ebola and Zika outbreaks. Their work showed just how important it is to invest in preparedness to build-up our capacity to respond quickly so we can prevent an outbreak from snowballing into a bigger crisis.

Unfortunately, this administration dismantled that coordinating group so I am pleased that Mr. Connolly's measure will get those best practices back up and running, requiring a global health security coordinator to manage our response in emergencies like this and help us to prepare rather than just react. It is a good bill I strongly support.

Next, I will turn to the Leveraging Information on Foreign Traffickers Act, or the LIFT Act, the bill authorized by Mr. McCaul. I was pleased to join the Ranking Member introducing this good measure to ensure that the State Department has the right tools to combat human trafficking, a heinous crime that has ensnared over 25 million people around the world.

I am also proud of the work that this committee has done on this matter on this matter and I especially want to thank Mr. Smith for his leadership on this issue for over two decades.

Today's measure continues that legacy for our committee. The LIFT Act enhances the State Department's ability to gather information on his horrendous practice and engage the survivors in our policymaking process. We must continue to fight modern day slavery and work to enact legislation that brings us to a brighter future, free of his horrific injustice. Today's measure is a step in that direction and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting it.

Next, I will turn to Mr. Deutch's Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery Act, named for one of the many Americans being unjustly held captive abroad.

It is critical that our government take every step possible to get our citizens home safely. President Obama made important policy changes on this matter, creating a special envoy position to be the point person on these efforts and proving transparent, open lines of communication with the family members of these American hostages. The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery Act puts those initiatives into law, building to a more thorough and effective approach to helping these people and their families. It is a good bill I am pleased to support.

I also want to recognize two family members of Americans being held in Iran here with us today, Sarah Moriarty and Babak Namazi. Thank you for your dedication and strength.

Next, I want to address House Resolution 809 by Mr. Suozzi reaffirming the United States' commitment to our alliance with the Republic of Korea. At a time when we face an increasingly aggressive China, a dangerously unhinged North Korea, and a host of other challenges including the coronavirus outbreak, it is imperative that we stay in lockstep with our partners in the region.

Right now, the Trump Administration is working on finalizing a cost-sharing agreement with South Korea regarding our forces on the Korean Peninsula. The Trump Administration started out by asking our allies to pay 400 percent more than they did before. While it is important for our partners to shoulder more of the burden over time, it is important that the final agreement reflects our close partnership with the Republic of Korea and advances our shared goal of preserving security and prosperity in the Asian Pacific. I support this measure and urge all of our members to do the same.

Finally, I will say a few words about House Resolution 512 from Mr. Raskin. Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right. No one should face oppression because of their religious beliefs or lack thereof. It is hard to stomach this today in 2020. There are still more than 70 countries with criminal blasphemy laws on the books that target people for their faith.

Today's resolution calls for repeal of these dangerous laws. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting. I strongly support all of the measures we are considering today and I urge all members to join me and do the same. And I will now recognize our Ranking Member, Mr. McCaul of Texas, for his remarks.

Mr. McCAUL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for your cooperation and leadership on these 11 measures. As you know, our committee has its greatest impact when we operate on a bipartisan basis as we are doing so today.

Let me start by thanking the chairman for working with me on the leveraging information on foreign traffickers or LIFT Act which continues this committee's 20-year tradition of bipartisan work to combat the scourge of human trafficking which affects greatly our Nation and my home State of Texas.

U.S. law currently requires the State Department to deny U.S. visas to human traffickers, but when the Department denies visas to traffickers, it does not tell its own anti-trafficking officials where and how often those denials occur. This bill ensures that appropriate State Department officials leading the fight receive this important information on a timely basis.

Modern slavery affects millions around the world, but it is not just a problem in the developing world. It is happening right now in our backyards, in our neighborhoods. A month ago, I was proud to stand with my inspiring constituent, Courtney Litvak, at the White House Human Trafficking Summit.

We need to keep the voices of survivors at the center of the policy conversation. And for that reason, this bill also re-authorizes the survivor-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking through 2025. My amendment also makes sure that survivors who otherwise could not afford to take time off from work, are able to serve on this council, such as Courtney Litvak.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent also to place into the record a letter of support for the LIFT Act from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. McCAUL. Thank you. And I want to thank you again for joining me on this important bill. I hope we can move it quickly to the floor.

As we face the growing challenges of the novel coronavirus, I also want to commend Mr. Connolly and Mr. Chabot for their Global Health Security Act. That bill, this bill, will help ensure that our interagency and international efforts to address global health emergencies are as coordinated and efficient as possible.

I also want to thank Mr. Wilson for his Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act. When deciding whether to designate Russia as a country of particular concern for religious freedom violations, U.S. officials must also consider Russia's persecution of religious groups inside those areas of Ukraine that it occupies or controls.

And finally, I also support the No Passport Fees for Heroes' Families Act. In cases where our service members are severely wounded abroad, this bill waives passport fees for family members traveling to assist in their recovery.

So I am very glad, Mr. Chairman, once again we worked on both sides of the aisle to get this work done. I hope the remainder of this Congress will be as cooperative as the first markup of this year. With that, I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back. Thank you, Mr. McCaul.

Does anyone seek recognition for the purpose of speaking on the en bloc package?

I now recognize Mr. Connolly.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I am, of course, in favor of the en bloc approval of these bills.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your support, in particular, of the Global Health Security Act. And I also want to thank the ranking member and his staff for working with us to make this happen. I also want to thank my partner in crime, Steve Chabot, who has been a wonderful partner in so many enterprises including this one. We have a number of Democratic and Republican co-sponsors. I also want to congratulate and thank Ms. Houlihan for her thoughtful amendment that I think adds clarity to this bill.

We are in the midst of what may very well turn out to be a pandemic, the coronavirus. It is running at a lethality rate that is 20 times that rate of normal flu. We have already had nine deaths here in the United States. We have no vaccine against this virus and even our best medical interventions are not 100 percent efficacious. And we have to be prepared.

Two years ago, the administration dismantled the apparatus that had been put in place 5 years before in the face of the Ebola crisis. I think in retrospect that was an unwise move. This bill would restore that and institutionalize it. This is not a criticism about this President or this administration. It is a recognition, however, that just as happened 5 years ago, we did not have the apparatus in place which is why an Ebola czar had to be named.

We cannot go from pandemic to pandemic. We know throughout human history pandemics are going to be part of our history. We need to be prepared. We need to have a locus in the National Security Council in the White House that is charged with that responsibility, monitoring, intervention, collaboration, networking, and of course, taking measures to protect the American people in the event of a possible pandemic.

It should not take a crisis for us to act. And the American people, I think, do expect us to act. And I think this gives us an opportunity as a committee to make our contribution and it will be a substantive contribution.

I am very pleased that the Global Health Security Act is endorsed by the ChildFund International, Global Health Council, the International Medical Corps, the IntraHealth International, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, Nuclear Threat Initiative, PAP, the American Society of Tropical medicine and Hygiene, Management Sciences for Health, the Sabin Vaccine Institute, the Borgen Project, and the American Society for Microbiology.

I think we can move this bill and I hope we will bring it to the floor swiftly in suspension so that we can get this institutionalized structure in place so never again do we have to move from crisis to crisis.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support and I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Are there any other members seeking recognition?

I now recognize Mr. Chabot.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Move to strike the last word.

We have a number of very good bills before us this morning, but I want to focus on H.R. 2166, the Global Health Security Act, bipartisan legislation that my Democratic colleague and friend, Gerry Connolly, who has just spoken, and I introduced at the beginning of last year to strengthen U.S. and global preparedness for and capacity to respond to pandemics or what may be a pandemic like the coronavirus.

With coronavirus spreading across the globe, our consideration of this legislation is timely and our decision to introduce the legislation in the first place over a year ago was prescient. Over 90,000 cases have been confirmed worldwide with over 100 in the United States at this time. As this is proving once again, diseases do not know borders and a deadly virus is just a plane ride away. That is why the United States must continue to lead the world's efforts to advance global health security.

This act has two main goals. First, it codifies our commitment made by both the Obama and Trump Administrations to the global health security agenda, a multi-lateral partnership that aims to strengthen health systems and laboratories in countries around the world so that they might meet the international health regulation standards. Folks back home might wonder why we should bother about other countries' health systems, but as coronavirus shows, a weak health system in another country, in this instance, China, can directly threaten us here in America.



Second, our bill makes sure that we have the personnel. The personnel is in place to prepare for when the need arises to respond to pandemics like the coronavirus. Specifically, we need someone preferably at the NSC to quarterback the U.S. Government's response since that response inevitably involves several agencies across the government from the State Department to the CDC, Centers for Disease Control.

Several Republicans, including then Chairman Ed Royce, called for the appointment of a single point person with a health background during the Ebola outbreak back in 2014. The Obama Administration got it half right with the appointment of a political appointee as the singular lead. It seems that the Trump Administration has now followed a similar course to what Republicans wanted in 2014 with an appointment of Ambassador Debbie Birx, a universally respected health expert as White House coronavirus response coordinator under Vice President Pence.

In any event, our bill would make this position permanent, so that when the next pandemic comes and we know it will eventually come, we are ready to go. As coronavirus continues to sweep the globe, we need to take this opportunity to recommit this Nation to leadership on health security and prepare ourselves for the next pandemic. Protecting our Nation's health must be a national security priority. Now is not the time to politicize this issue.

The Global Health Security Act provides a bipartisan endorsement for this critical priority and elevates it within the U.S. Government. Today's passage of our legislation will help America and the world for the next outbreak. So I would urge my colleagues to support the bill and I again want to thank Mr. Connolly—

Mr. CONNOLLY. Would my friend yield?

Mr. CHABOT. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I am remiss in praising members and I also want to praise our staff on both sides of the aisle for making this happen, and particularly my staff member, Molly Cole, for shepherding this, this bill to this point. Thank you.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you very much. Then I have to thank Mark Erste, my staffer, who principally worked on this who is sitting behind me. We appreciate his work and all the work, as well as Mr. Engel and Mr. McCaul also who both supported this. We appreciate it. With that, I urge my colleagues to support the bill and yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. I thank the gentleman. The gentleman yields back. I now recognize Mr. Sherman.

Mr. SHERMAN. I commend the leadership of the committee and the staff for putting together 11 excellent bipartisan bills for the markup today. I first want to commend Jim Costa for his bill recognizing the continued success of the Food for Peace Act. And I want to congratulate Jim who is not here because he just had a very tough race in California which he won by a very nice margin and I look forward and I think we all look forward to serving with Jim for many years to come.

I want to commend Jamie Raskin for his work on condemning laws against blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy. And in our hearings in the Asia Subcommittee on Pakistan, we saw how these laws can be used to just make something up about a neighbor and lead to

capital charges being filed and people coming even close to execution.

I want to commend Tom Suozzi for his bill recognizing the U.S.-Republic of Korea Alliance. The chairman and ranking member should be commended for their bill dealing with the Trafficking in Persons report and I will make sure that the information from that report is used effectively.

I commend Susan Wild for her bill to focus our attention on ending sexual violence against girls. Gerry Connolly for his bill on Global Health Security and there is not a more important time for that than right now. Deb Haaland for her bill recognizing Jim Thorpe. Ted Deutch's bill on our partnership with Tunisia. Paul Mitchell, I think, found a good point. We should not be charging passport fees for visiting our heroes. And finally, I have like all these bills co-sponsored Joe Wilson's bill on Ukraine Religious Freedom. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back. Are there any other members seeking recognition?

Mr. WILSON. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Wilson.

Mr. WILSON. Thank you, Chairman Eliot Engel and Republican leader Michael McCaul, for bringing these important bipartisan measures before us today.

I am grateful to recognize the leadership of chairman of the Middle East, North African, and International Terrorism Subcommittee, Ted Deutch. I was glad to support and work with him on two important bills before us today, H.R. 1611 and H.Res. 458.

Chairman Ted Deutch has a long history of advocating for Americans wrongfully detained abroad, including his constituent, Robert Levinson, who disappeared in Iran 13 years ago this month. H.R. 1611, the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage Taking Accountability Act will go a long way to ensuring the United States does all it can to fulfill and bring home Americans wrongfully detained abroad back home. The bill will set up a special Presidential envoy for hostage affairs, as well as a hostage recovery fusion cell to facilitate efforts to return these Americans back to their families.

Thank you, Chairman Deutch, for your steadfast commitment to this issue and I am grateful to work with you on this important initiative.

Additionally, I support Chairman Deutch's House Res. 458, reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms. I had the opportunity to travel to Tunisia this past September with the Helsinki Commission and see this budding democracy up close as parliamentary elections were taking place across the country.

I am deeply impressed by the extraordinary people of Tunisia and their commitment to the democratic institutions of their country which I saw firsthand of this vibrant democracy. They stand as a hope for the entire region. And I appreciate working with Chairman Deutch on this resolution.

I am also grateful to be an original cosponsor with Congressman Paul Mitchell's H.R. 2847, the No Passport Fees for Heroes' Fami-

lies Act. This bill should be supported by everyone of our committee's members here today. It waives passport fees for family members of U.S. Armed Forces traveling abroad to visit their enlisted loved ones in the hospital. This is a very basic respect of our grateful nation that we can give to these families who put everything on the line for our country's and families' safety.

Last, I would like to thank Chairman Engel and Republican Leader McCaul for marking up my bill, H.R. 5408, the Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act. Since its illegal invasion and occupation of Crimea and parts of the Donbass region in eastern Ukraine in 2014, killing over 13,000 Ukrainians, Russia has perpetrated egregious violation of religious freedom in those territories. This has included imprisonment, torture, forced psychiatric hospitalization, and more, again, with 13,000 citizens dead. Undermining laws of armed conflict including the Geneva Convention, the Russian Federation is responsible for religious freedom violations in territory it occupies or otherwise controls. This bill would give the President the ability to take into consideration Russia's violations to religious freedom, not just within the Russian Federation, but also within the territory of Ukraine that Russia occupies or controls through armed groups it directs when determining whether to designate Russia as a country of particular concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

Marking up this bill today sends a strong and clear message to Moscow. The United States will hold you accountable for your violations of human rights and religious freedoms in Ukraine. We will continue standing side by side with the brave people of Ukraine and freedom-loving people everywhere against the tyranny and evil perpetuated by the Kremlin.

Additionally, I would like to join in the praise of the bill by Congressman Suozzi, of our relationship and alliance with the Republic of Korea. What a dynamic country, what a symbol it is to Asia of the success of free-market democracy. Thank you, again, to the chairman and Republican leader. I encourage all my colleagues to support these bipartisan bills today. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Deutch.

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to the Ranking Member for holding today's markup and for so many good measures that I am proud to support, especially given what we are facing globally, the Global Health Security Act.

I want to thank you as well for including two of my bills, H.Res. 458 and H.R. 1611 and I want to thank Joe Wilson, the Ranking Member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, for being such a strong leader and partner in these efforts and so many others.

I was honored to introduce H.Res. 458, a resolution reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and express the support for the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reform. I am a strong supporter of the U.S.-Tunisia partnership. Of all the Arab States touched by revolutions since 2010, Tunisia has emerged as the most stable and demo-

cratic. And I would like to congratulate the Tunisian people on the success of their recent elections.

Tunisia continues to face many challenges including the security threats posed by both extremists and the conflict in Libya, high inflation, and high unemployment especially among young Tunisians, and the need to develop inclusive and transparent and responsive political institutions. Congress will remain committed, a committed partner to Tunisia as it confronts and overcomes these challenges and continues down the democratic path.

Mr. Chairman, next week, March 9th, marks 13 years since the disappearance of my constituent, Bob Levinson. Bob disappeared from Iran's Kish Island. Most of you know Bob's story if no other reason you have heard me tell it many times. Bob spent 25 years serving his country with the FBI.

For the 10-years that I have been a Member of Congress, I have urged every U.S. Government official I meet to help bring Bob home. I have raised Bob's case with allies and partners and capitals around the world. And those efforts pale in comparison to the 13 years that the Levinson family has spent tirelessly advocating for Bob's release.

For 13 years, this family, led by Bob's incredible wife, Christine, and his 7 children, Susan, Stephanie, Samantha, Dan, David, Doug, and Sarah who is on the Hill this week meeting with many of you, they have traveled to Washington hundreds of times. In the early days of Bob's disappearance, Christine and Dan traveled to Iran on their own to try to find answers. They met with presidents and secretaries of State, officials of the United Nations. They are not public officials, professional lobbyists, or media strategists. They are just a family figuring out how to get the world to help them get their husband and father back.

The Levinsons are far from the family that found themselves, the only family who found themselves facing the daunting task of advocating their loved one. Babak Namazi is on the Hill today. His father Baquer and his brother Siamak are still unjustly held in Iran. Babak, too, spends his time and energy advocating for his family's release including this week as he desperately tries to get his family released from Evin prison, where coronavirus is spreading rapidly.

Today, we have the opportunity to help these families as they go through one of the most challenging and painful experiences imaginable. No family should be faced with the overwhelming task of navigating government bureaucracy and deciphering mixed messages from their own government.

H.R. 1611, the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage Taking Accountability Act will create a support structure within U.S. Government for hostages and unlawful or wrongfully detained Americans. The bill formalize the 2015 Executive Order issued in the aftermath of the tragic deaths of James Foley and Steven Sotloff by ISIS terrorists which created an interagency response structure at both the operational and the policy level.

I would like to acknowledge the James Foley Foundation's work and its president and founder, Diane Foley, as well as Arthur and Shirley Sotloff, for their continued work in pushing forward this important effort.

The bill mandates the position of special envoy for hostage affairs at the State Department and requires families be given guidance on how to manage their interactions with the U.S. Government. The bill will also formalize consistent family engagement. And finally, the bill provides the authority to sanction those who are responsible for or who assist in the unlawful detention of Americans because we will not and cannot tolerate rogue regimes or actors that engage in hostage taking. Passing this bill will not provide relief to the Levinsons or the other families suffering without their loved ones. But by passing this bill today, we can at least give these families one less thing to worry about. No family should have to face this situation without the proper resources and support from their own government. And today, we can also take steps to hold those responsible for the unlawful detention of Americans accountable.

Next week, Christine Levinson will mark 13 years without her husband. Bob's children will mark 13 without their dad. Thirteen years is too long. I hope, I hope that this is the last time that this committee hears me tell Bob's story. And I am grateful, so grateful, to all of my colleagues who have supported the Levinsons and all of the other families and I urge your support for the Levinson Act today.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back. I now recognized Mr. Perry.

Mr. PERRY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, for the opportunity to speak before the committee this morning. There is often quite a bit of partisan rancor in these settings, but I am happy to witness a lot less of that today.

Almost all of the pieces of legislation before us represent Congress at its best, working together in the interest of the American people and leading the way on critically important issues facing the world today. These bills accomplish a variety of essential policy goals, goals that reflect our values as a Nation. They take a stand against the violation of religious freedom. They ensure we are better prepared to eliminate the scourge of human trafficking off the face of the earth, and they provide succor to families visiting their wounded service members overseas. They reaffirm the intrinsic worth and dignity of every human life by confronting the evil practice of female genital mutilation. They reaffirm long-lasting partnerships with key allies, particularly South Korea, and they guarantee that those foreign actors who would take American citizens hostage will be forced to pay to pay for their crime. These bills, several of which I have cosponsored, demonstrate that Congress still has the capacity to set aside partisan differences and work together on measures all Americans can be proud of.

The LIFT Act, offered by the ranking member improves the State Department's preparation of the trafficking in persons or TIP report and extends the survivor-led U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking through 2025.

The Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act ensures that we hit back against the tyrannical Russian regime that regularly violates the human rights of religious institutions in Russia occupied

Ukrainian territory, territory stolen from Ukraine following the invasion of Crimea in 2014.

I was also proud to co-sponsor H.R. 2847 which eliminates passport fees for family members visiting military service members in overseas military medical facilities.

The Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage Taking Accountability Act authorizes the President to establish an inter-agency framework aimed not only at ensuring that those Americans unjustly imprisoned overseas are released, but that the offending party is punished accordingly.

House Resolution 809 focuses on the strategic importance of the U.S.-South Korea Alliance and emphasizes just how much our partnership contributes to the cause of peace. It further highlights our Nation's commitment toward a mutual defense treaty between our two countries and I applaud its passage out of this committee.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention H.Res. 720 which calls on the International Olympic Committee to restore Jim Thorpe's Olympic records as they restored his medals in 1982. As you know, Jim Thorpe was the first Native American to win the Olympic Gold Medal for the United States. He attended the Carlisle Industrial School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and was a two-time all-American for the school's football team. The Carlisle Industrial School is now located on the grounds of the U.S. Army War College barracks in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

There is much to praise in these bills before us today, but I am particularly grateful to be able to speak on the issue impacting hundreds of millions of girls and women worldwide, the evil, barbaric practice of female genital mutilation or FGM. I thank Congresswoman Wild and Congressman Sensenbrenner for introducing House Res. 723, a resolution encouraging all nations to end sexual violence against girls through data-driven reforms. This resolution explicitly encourages nations to implement multi-disciplinary evidence based response plans to end sexual violence against girls. I am pleased to co-sponsor this legislation and join them in their efforts.

The practice of FGM has affected nearly 200 million girls worldwide. Three million girls are at risk every year and most endure the procedure before they turn 15 years old. In many countries, the majority of girls who survive this horrific procedure are between zero and 4 years of age. Ninety-one percent of Egyptian women between the ages of 15 and 49 have undergone FGM. That figures is at 98 percent for women in that age range in Somalia, 89 percent in Mali, 88 percent in Sudan, 74 percent in Ethiopia, 96 percent in Guinea, and 88 percent in Sierra Leone.

I am thankful to my colleagues for their advocacy on this issue, coupled with this committee's demonstrated commitment toward combating such human rights abuses as human trafficking. We are demonstrating an unmistakable fidelity to the cause of justice and peace.

And I thank the committee and I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back. I now recognize Ms. Wild.

Ms. WILD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike the last word.

I want to start by thanking Chairman Engel and Ranking Member McCaul for working with me to bring my bipartisan resolution, H.Res. 723, to markup. I also want to thank my friend, Representative Lois Frankel, for her tireless work and support on this issue and all issues affecting women and children.

Sometimes lost in this era of hyper partisanship is the good work that Democrats and Republicans do in this Foreign Affairs Committee every day. Today's slate of 11 bills is a perfect example of the good that we can do when we work together.

My resolution, endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, CARE USA, UNICEF USA, and many others, recognizes that sexual violence against girls spares no culture, country, race, religion, or ethnicity. Globally, 50 percent of all sexual assaults are committed against girls who are under the age of 16. The life-long impact that these assaults have on young girls cannot be understated. They decrease the number of years spent in school. They increase the rates of suicide, early high risk pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS, and they perpetuate inter-generational poverty hurting families, communities, entire countries, and our global economy. And worst of all, these assaults rob children of their youth and of their belief that there is good and decency in this world.

But there is a path forward, once that is adaptable and considers the unique challenges, legally and culturally, that local communities face. Violence Against Children Surveys, or VACS, were designed by the Centers for Disease Control. VACS are data gathering household surveillance tools employed by 22 nations across the globe and have reached 60,000 individuals in conjunction with INSPIRE, a program developed by the World Health Organization to help establish and enforce new laws and victim response and support services. These surveys guide reforms for each participating nation with great success. For example, in Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, VACS resulted in a significant decrease in sexual violence against children and adolescents.

My resolution applauds the leadership of those countries that have implemented data driven, in country, multi-sector reforms to put an end to sexual violence against girls. It also urges all countries to put into place VACS and INSPIRE in keeping with the United Nations' sustainable development goals which included specific goals to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children, and to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. Through this resolution, we can help establish integrated systems that protect girls and create survivor advocacy centers that make mental health services more accessible worldwide.

To victims of sexual violence, we see your struggle. We hear your cries for help, and we stand in solidarity with you all. I urge passage of this resolution out of committee and I urge leadership to bring this to the floor of the House as quickly as possible. And with that, I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. I now recognize Ms. Houlahan.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to thank Mr. Connolly for introducing H.R. 2166 as a very timely piece of legislation. Right now, we are facing an international health crisis that

is threatening the economic stability and more importantly the lives of so many people around the world.

My amendment urges the President to appoint an expert to lead the management of crises like this one, someone who is experienced in public health or crisis management, who can better help us navigate an outbreak like the coronavirus.

The original intent of this bill was to explicitly direct the President to designate an employee of the NSC to coordinate inter-agency processes who are responding to the global health security emergency. However, part of being an effective Member of Congress and this committee often means making very deliberate compromises. With that in mind, this committee worked together to amend the bill text to encourage, rather than to direct.

Regardless of the legal jargon, let me make it clear the urgency of this particular matter. By failing to mandate a permanent NSC position to manage pandemics, we are opening ourselves to the risk of yet another outbreak for which we will be woefully unprepared. Given that both Republicans and Democrats support this amendment, I expect the President to sign this legislation and to appoint a qualified person to the advisor position with haste. We simply cannot afford to wait for the next coronavirus.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. OK, I thank the gentlewoman. I now recognize Mr. Malinowski. I will give him 3 seconds to catch his breath.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, everyone, for your patience.

We have a number of good pieces of legislation here which I am very happy to support. I want to take my time to speak about one bill which I will support, but which I do find in some ways disappointing and I want to just express some thoughts about it. And that is the resolution of our relationship with South Korea.

I agree with what it says. I am disappointed by what it does not say, and I think we need to be honest about that. Let me start by expressing what I think all of us pretty much agree on. We agree that South Korea is our ally. We agree that South Korea is worthy of being our ally. It is a democracy, a country that shares our values and our burdens in the world. We agree that North Korea is a horrific dictatorship, an adversary of the United States, and a threat to peace and security in Asia.

I believe all of us agree that our military commitment to South Korea is something that serves America's national security interests. We are not just there to protect the South Koreans. We are there because South Korea offers us a platform to protect our interests in Asia, to protect our other allies including Japan, and to counter the threat of a rising China, not to mention deterring aggression from North Korea.

I think all of us understands that South Korea pays a significant share of this joint partnership. Recently, South Korea paid about 90 percent of the construction of Camp Humphreys, a major military base, 90 percent of \$11 billion cost. South Korea spends 2.6 percent of its GDP on defense, more than most of our European allies. South Korea contributes about half of the cost of stationing U.S. military personnel in that country. I think all of us under-



stand it would cost us more money to bring those troops home than it does to keep them there.

And yet, we have a President who does not agree with that consensus, who has repeatedly questioned why we have troops in South Korea in the first place, a President who treats this alliance with South Korea the way he treats so many of our other alliances in democratic countries around the world. He treats it as if it is a protection racket. He has repeatedly said and argued that we should not be there unless we are paid to be there. He treats our troops in South Korea as if they are mercenaries.

Right now, as we are passing this resolution, expressing our support for this partnership, the President is demanding that the South Koreans pay us four times what they currently contribute to meeting the shared costs of this alliance, a 400 percent increase, a shake-down. After a year, 2019, in which North Korea shot off more than two dozen missiles in violation of U.N. Security Council resolution.

I think all of us here, Republicans and Democrats, understand that this is crazy, the shake-down of an ally in the middle of an ongoing national security crisis in the Korean Peninsula is absolutely crazy. I am confident that Secretary Pompeo believes it is crazy. I am confident that Secretary of Defense Esper believes it is crazy, that our military leaders believe it is crazy. But we are not willing to say so in this resolution.

For the sake of bipartisan comity, we are going to pass a resolution that contains, honestly, a bunch of platitudes about the importance of this relationship and of this partnership, but that does not express the concerns of the U.S. Congress which I believe they are shared on both sides of the aisle, that it is wrong in the middle of a crisis to be shaking down an ally and we do not stand with that.

I think this is because our Republican colleagues, even though most of them would agree with most of what I have just said, do not want to get into an argument with the mad king in the White House and that disappoints me. I think it diminishes the importance of our committee, diminishes the value of this resolution, and other similar resolutions that we may have.

So I will vote for it, but with a heavy heart, with great disappointment and with the hope that in the future we are willing to be a little bit more edgy, that we are willing, even as we strive for bipartisan consensus, to do things that may require a vote from time to time and a little bit of disagreement. And with that, I yield back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back. I now recognize Mr. Costa.

Mr. COSTA. I thank the chairman and the ranking member of this committee's work this morning. I think it reflects the bipartisanship that we like to see as it relates to our Nation's foreign policy.

I would like to speak on part of the en bloc measures that we are considering on voting this morning on this specific issue and that is the Food for Peace Act. And that is the support of House Resolution 742 which I have introduced.

This has been a successful bipartisan program for decades. Since 1954, Food for Peace has provided lifesaving food assistance for

some of the world's most vulnerable people and it has already saved millions of lives. Clearly, there is more work that can and should be done.

Tens of millions of children suffer from the effects of malnutrition, while disasters that we know of, civil strife, and other crises put food supplies at risk every year and that doesn't begin to talk about the challenges of climate change in which we know many places around the world that are on a subsistence diet are going to be further impacted as their ability to produce food in those regions because of the impact of climate change will diminish sadly.

I have introduced House Resolution 742 to mark these important achievements and call for continued appropriation and prioritization for Food for Peace. The resolution has strong bipartisan support. It has the support of a number of interested organizations and trade groups that reflect the breadth and width of our country, as well as other international organizations. The support should remind us that Food for Peace is not only an important reminder of the generosity of the American people, the American farmer, but a critical aspect of our national security policy. I mean this is smart policy. And when we do these kinds of work, we build relationships in the most positive ways.

I often say that food security, I think, translates into national security for our country. So our nutrition assistance for the world's most vulnerable people is not only the right thing to do, but it is clearly in our interest and so therefore I ask my colleagues to stand with me and affirm the importance of the Food for Peace program, support this measure, 742, and I yield back the balance of my time. And I will find my voice somewhere.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman yields back. Are there any other members seeking recognition?

Hearing no further requests for recognition and without objection, the committee will proceed to consider the noticed items en bloc. Without objection, each measure is considered as read and the amendment to each are considered as read and are agreed to.

The question occurs on the measures en bloc, as amended. If amended, all those in favor, say aye.

[Ayes.]

All those opposed, no.

[No response.]

In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. The measures considered en bloc are agreed to and without objection each measure is ordered favorably reported, as amended, and each amendment to each bill shall be reported as a single amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without objection, staff is authorized to make any technical and conforming changes.

This concludes our business today. I thank Ranking Member McCaul and all of the committee members for their contributions and assistance of today's markup. The markup is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 10:59 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

## APPENDIX

**FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE**  
**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

**Eliot L. Engel (D-NY), Chairman**

March 4, 2020

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN markup of the Committee on Foreign Affairs to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/>):

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**MARKUP OF:** H.Res. 512, Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws

H.R. 5408, Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act

H.Res. 742, Recognizing the continued success of the Food for Peace Act

H.R. 5664, LIFT Act

H.Res. 720, Expressing the sense of House of Representatives that the International Olympic Committee should correct Jim Thorpe's Olympic records for his unprecedented accomplishments during the 1912 Olympic Games

H.R. 2166, Global Health Security Act

H.R. 2847, No Passport Fees for Heroes' Families Act

H.Res. 723, Encouraging all nations to end sexual violence against girls through in-country data-driven reforms as demonstrated by multiple African nations

H.Res. 809, Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States

H.Res. 458, Reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms

H.R. 1611, Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act

**By Direction of the Chairman**

*The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.*

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
MINUTES OF FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

Day Wednesday Date March 4, 2020 Room 2172

Starting Time 10:07 AM Ending Time 10:59 AM

Recesses 0 (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ ) (\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ )

Presiding Member(s)

*Chairman Eliot L. Engel*

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☒

Electronically Recorded (taped) ☒

Executive (closed) Session ☐

Stenographic Record ☒

Televised ☒

**BILLS FOR MARKUP:** (Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)

*H.Res. 512; H.R. 5408; H.Res. 742; H.R. 5664; H.Res. 720; H.R. 2166; H.R. 2847; H.Res. 723; H.Res. 809; H.Res. 458; H.R. 1611*

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

*See attendance.*

**NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD:** (List any statements submitted for the record.)

*IFR - McCaul*

**ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP:** (Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)

*The measures considered en bloc were agreed to by voice vote. By unanimous consent, the measures were ordered favorably reported, as amended, if amended, to the House. The Chairman intends to seek House consideration under suspension of the rules.*

**RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP):** (Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Ycas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE \_\_\_\_\_

or

TIME ADJOURNED 10:59 AM

*Camilla Ballman*  
Full Committee Hearing Coordinator

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## FULL COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
X	Eliot L. Engel, NY
X	Brad Sherman, CA
	Gregory W. Meeks, NY
	Albio Sires, NJ
X	Gerald E. Connolly, VA
X	Theodore E. Deutch, FL
	Karen Bass, CA
X	William Keating, MA
X	David Cicilline, RI
	Ami Bera, CA
	Joaquin Castro, TX
	Dina Titus, NV
	Adriano Espaillat, NY
X	Ted Lieu, CA
X	Susan Wild, PA
X	Dean Phillips, MN
	Ilhan Omar, MN
	Colin Allred, TX
	Andy Levin, MI
	Abigail Spanberger, VA
X	Chrissy Houlahan, PA
X	Tom Malinowski, NJ
X	David Trone, MD
X	Jim Costa, CA
X	Juan Vargas, CA
X	Vicente Gonzalez, TX

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
X	Michael T. McCaul, TX
X	Christopher H. Smith, NJ
X	Steve Chabot, OH
X	Joe Wilson, SC
X	Scott Perry, PA
	Ted Yoho, FL
X	Adam Kinzinger, IL
X	Lee Zeldin, NY
	James Sensenbrenner, Jr., WI
	Ann Wagner, MO
	Brian J. Mast, FL
	Francis Rooney, FL
X	Brian K. Fitzpatrick, PA
	John Curtis, UT
	Ken Buck, CO
	Ron Wright, TX
X	Guy Reschenthaler, PA
	Tim Burchett, TN
X	Greg Pence, IN
X	Steve Watkins, KS
X	Michael Guest, MS

## INFORMATION FOR THE RECORD



Committee on Migration

c/o Migration and Refugee Services, USCCB

3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194

202-541-3065 • fax 202-722-8805 • email [mrs@usccb.org](mailto:mrs@usccb.org) • [www.usccb.org/mrs](http://www.usccb.org/mrs)

March 3, 2020

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, I urge you to consider supporting H.R. 5664, the "Leveraging Information on Foreign Traffickers (LIFT) Act." This bipartisan legislation introduced by Representative McCaul (R-TX) and Representative Engel (D-NY) helps to advance and continue our nation's efforts to address and eradicate human trafficking and assist human trafficking victims.

The Catholic Church teaches that all human life is a gift from God and is sacred. The dignity of the human person must be upheld, and all lives deserve to be protected and nurtured. The Church has a longstanding commitment to ending human trafficking in all its forms, and the restoration of victims. Calling human trafficking "an open wound on the body of contemporary society," and "a crime against humanity," Pope Francis has continued the work of his predecessors and taken global leadership on anti-trafficking initiatives. Here in the United States, we bishops wholeheartedly support the Holy Father and will continue working to eradicate human trafficking and support and uplift survivors.

H.R. 5664 is an important step Congress can take to ensure a robust, global response to human trafficking as it provides adequate time for the completion of the annual TIP (Trafficking in Persons) Report and also puts valuable provisions in place to track individuals who have been denied visas to the United States on human trafficking grounds. Both issues are important in this fight as it is vital to ensure that human trafficking data is clearly collected and disseminated, traffickers do not operate with impunity, and victims are protected.

We are also pleased to see that H.R. 5664 further extends the authorization of the Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. As Pope Francis has stated: "[Trafficking] victims are from all walks of life but are most frequently among the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. I believe that these exploited individuals deserve the care and support of our communities and our government and that such support will help them heal and become survivors." Survivors provide a valuable and unique perspective.

We thank Congress for its long-standing commitment to confront modern-day slavery. We ask that you renew your commitment by supporting H.R. 5664 and work to keep this a bipartisan effort. We must continue to come together to fight this crime against humanity and ensure that survivors are given the services and opportunities they need to live with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mario E. Dorsonville".

Most Reverend Mario E. Dorsonville  
 Auxiliary Bishop of Washington  
 Chairman, Committee on Migration  
 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

## MARKUP SUMMARY

03/04/2020 House Foreign Affairs Committee Markup Summary

The Chair called up the following measures and amendments, previously provided to Members, to be considered *en bloc*:

- (1) H.Res. 512, Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws (Raskin)
  - Levin, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.Res. 512
- (2) H.R. 5408, Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act (Wilson)
  - Wilson, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 5408
- (3) H.Res. 741, Recognizing the continued success of the Food for Peace Act (Costa)
  - Engel, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.Res. 742
- (4) H.R. 5664, LIFT Act (McCaul)
  - McCaul Amendment #1
- (5) H.Res. 720, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the International Olympic Committee should correct Jim Thorpe's Olympic records for his unprecedented accomplishments during the 1912 Olympic Games (Haaland)
- (6) H.R. 2166, Global Health Security Act of 2019
  - Connolly, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2166
  - Houlahan Amendment #58
- (7) H.R. 2847, No Passport Fees for Heroes' Families Act (Mitchell)
  - Wilson, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2847
- (8) H.Res. 723, Encouraging all nations to end sexual violence against girls through in-country data-driven reforms as demonstrated by multiple African nations (Wild)
  - Wild, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.Res. 723
  - Houlahan Amendment #57
- (9) H.Res. 809, Expressing the importance of the United States alliance with the Republic of Korea and the contributions of Korean Americans in the United States (Suozzi)
  - Engel, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.Res. 809
- (10) H.Res. 458, Reaffirming the strong partnership between Tunisia and the United States and supporting the people of Tunisia in their continued pursuit of democratic reforms (Deutch)
  - Deutch, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.Res. 458
- (11) H.R. 1611, Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act
  - Deutch, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1611

The measures considered *en bloc* were agreed to by voice vote. By unanimous consent, the measures were ordered favorably reported, as amended if amended. The Chairman intends to seek House consideration under suspension of the rules.

The Committee adjourned.

\*\*\*All measures can be found [here](#).