

VARIOUS MEASURES

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 1654, H.R. 3654, H.R. 4154,
H. Res. 346 and H. Res. 536**

DECEMBER 9, 2015

Serial No. 114–125

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Affairs



Available via the World Wide Web: <http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/> or
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

97–857PDF

WASHINGTON : 2015

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Publishing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512–1800; DC area (202) 512–1800
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CONTENTS

	Page
MARKUP OF	
H.R. 1654, To authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes	2
Amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1654 offered by the Honorable Edward R. Royce, a Representative in Congress from the State of California, and chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs	12
H.R. 3654, To require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes	22
Amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3654 offered by the Honorable Ted Poe, a Representative in Congress from the State of Texas	26
Amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3654 offered by the Honorable Darrell E. Issa, a Representative in Congress from the State of California	30
H.R. 4154, To direct the President to submit to Congress a time frame for the transfer of certain naval vessels to Taiwan pursuant to section 102(b) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2013, and for other purposes	32
H. Res. 346, Condemning the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic	34
Amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 346 offered by the Honorable Ted S. Yoho, a Representative in Congress from the State of Florida	39
H. Res. 536, Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech	44
Amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 536 offered by the Honorable Albio Sires, a Representative in Congress from the State of New Jersey	49
LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ETC., SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD	
APPENDIX	
Markup notice	72
Markup minutes	73
Markup summary	75

VARIOUS MEASURES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:30 a.m., in room 2172 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Edward Royce (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman ROYCE. This committee will come to order.

Pursuant to notice, we meet today to mark up five bipartisan measures. Without objection, all members may have 5 days to submit statements for the record and extraneous material on any of today's business.

As all were notified yesterday, we intend to consider these measures en bloc, and so without objection the following items previously provided to members will be considered en bloc; they're considered as read: H.R. 1654 to authorize the direct provision of defense articles and services to the Kurdistan Regional Government; Royce Amendment 87 in the nature of a substitute; H.R. 3654, the Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act; Poe Amendment 81 in the nature of a substitute and Issa Amendment 56; H.R. 4154, the Taiwan Naval Support Act; House Resolution 346, condemning the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic; Yoho Amendment 72 in the nature of a substitute; House Resolution 536, supporting freedom of the press in Latin America; and Sires Amendment 13 in the nature of a substitute.

[The information referred to follows:]

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1654

To authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SIEMMAN, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. MENG, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COOK, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. TURNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ISSA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Since 2011, the terrorist group now known
2 as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL),
3 has rapidly expanded, now possessing greater fund-
4 ing, more personnel, and heavier weapons than any
5 other terrorist force.

6 (2) ISIL has threatened to continue attacking
7 United States persons and interests and has an
8 apocalyptic vision for a larger confrontation with the
9 United States and its allies in the Middle East.

10 (3) According to the United States intelligence
11 community, approximately 20,000 to 30,000 ISIL
12 fighters operate in Iraq and Syria, an estimated
13 3,000 of which are believed to have western pass-
14 ports.

15 (4) ISIL finances itself through looting, smug-
16 gling, taxes, oil sales, kidnapping, and human traf-
17 ficking.

18 (5) According to United States officials, ISIL
19 captured approximately 1,500 Humvees, a number
20 of other modern armored vehicles and transport
21 trucks, over 50 long-range Global Positioning Sys-
22 tem (GPS)-guided artillery pieces, a substantial
23 number of artillery shells, a large quantity of small
24 arms, approximately 4,000 heavy machine guns, and
25 other weapons from the Iraqi Security Forces in

1 June 2014, and has also reportedly captured a num-
2 ber of other weapons and vehicles from Bashar al-
3 Assad’s forces in Syria.

4 (6) The rapidly deteriorating humanitarian sit-
5 uation in Iraq caused by ISIL advances in Iraq and
6 Syria has resulted in approximately 2,000,000 refu-
7 gees and internally displaced people from Syria and
8 Iraq taking refuge in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.
9 The Kurdistan Regional Government is facing a hu-
10 manitarian and budget crisis while defending itself
11 from ISIL.

12 (7) The Kurdistan Regional Government
13 (KRG) is the democratically elected government of
14 the Kurdistan Region in Iraq, and Iraqi Kurds have
15 been a reliable and stable partner of the United
16 States.

17 (8) The Iraqi constitution guarantees the right
18 of Iraqi regions, such as Iraqi Kurdistan, to main-
19 tain “internal security forces for the region such as
20 police, security forces, and guards of the region”.

21 (9) The Kurdish Peshmerga forces are officially
22 organized under the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs
23 and commanded by the Minister of Peshmerga, who
24 reports to the President of the Kurdistan Regional
25 Government.

1 (10) ISIL has positioned its forces along a 650-
2 mile border with the Kurdistan Regional Govern-
3 ment's Peshmerga forces.

4 (11) ISIL has employed captured armored vehi-
5 cles, long-range artillery, and heavy weapons in at-
6 tacking thinly stretched Kurdish forces along the
7 border.

8 (12) United States airstrikes against ISIL tar-
9 gets have helped stall the terrorist organization's ad-
10 vance on territory held by Kurdish forces, but have
11 not proven to be militarily decisive against ISIL.

12 (13) The United States and its allies have pro-
13 vided the resupply of various small arms and train-
14 ing to Peshmerga forces since June 2014.

15 (14) Such resupply efforts, to comply with
16 United States law, must be approved and coordi-
17 nated through the Government of Iraq. In the initial
18 phase of the resupply effort, the Government of Iraq
19 constrained and delayed the emergency supply of
20 weapons to the Kurdistan Regional Government.

21 (15) The Peshmerga forces continue to lack the
22 arms and battle-ready armored vehicles necessary to
23 take significant offensive action against ISIL forces,
24 leading to their requests for such assistance.

1 (16) The possession of armored vehicles, anti-
2 armor weapons, long-range artillery, and other weap-
3 ons is consistent with the Kurdistan Regional Gov-
4 ernment's constitutional right to defend itself
5 against the clear and present danger posed by ISIL.

6 (17) A strong Peshmerga force is essential to
7 countering the ISIL threat to Iraq, the region, and
8 United States interests.

9 (18) The longer ISIL's sanctuary remains
10 largely unchallenged, the more time it will have to
11 reinforce its positions, and plan attacks against
12 United States interests.

13 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

14 It is the sense of Congress that—

15 (1) defeating the Islamic State in Iraq and the
16 Levant (ISIL) is critical to maintaining a unified
17 Iraq in which all faiths and ethnicities are afforded
18 equal protection and full integration into the Iraqi
19 government and society;

20 (2) the people of Kurdistan face an urgent and
21 deadly threat from ISIL which the Iraqi Security
22 Forces, of which the Peshmerga are a component,
23 are currently unable to match in armaments;

24 (3) any outstanding issues between the Govern-
25 ment of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Govern-

1 ment should be resolved by the two parties expedi-
2 tiously to allow for a resumption of normal relations;
3 and

4 (4) ISIL's recent advances and continued
5 growth present an imminent threat to Iraqi
6 Kurdistan, the rest of Iraq and the Middle East,
7 and international security.

8 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

9 It shall be the policy of the United States to directly
10 provide the Kurdistan Regional Government with ad-
11 vanced conventional weapons, training, and defense serv-
12 ices, on an emergency and temporary basis, to more effec-
13 tively partner with the United States and other inter-
14 national coalition members to defeat the Islamic State in
15 Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

16 **SEC. 4. TEMPORARY EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION OF DE-**
17 **FENSE ARTICLES, DEFENSE SERVICES, AND**
18 **RELATED TRAINING DIRECTLY TO THE**
19 **KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President should consult with
21 the Government of Iraq in carrying out the authority pro-
22 vided in subsection (b).

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—

24 (1) MILITARY ASSISTANCE.—The President is
25 authorized to provide defense articles, defense serv-

ices, and related training directly to the Kurdistan Regional Government for the purpose of supporting international coalition efforts against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or any successor group.

(2) DEFENSE EXPORTS.—The President is authorized to issue licenses authorizing United States exporters to export defense articles, defense services, and related training directly to the Kurdistan Regional Government. For purposes of processing applications for such export licenses, the President is authorized to accept End Use Certificates approved by the Kurdistan Regional Government.

(3) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance authorized under paragraph (1) and exports authorized under paragraph (2) may include anti-tank and anti-armor weapons, armored vehicles, long-range artillery, crew-served weapons and ammunition, secure command and communications equipment, body armor, helmets, logistics equipment, excess defense articles and other military assistance that the President determines to be appropriate.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES; CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY.—

1 (1) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORI-
2 TIES.—Assistance authorized under subsection
3 (b)(1) and licenses for exports authorized under sub-
4 section (b)(2) shall be provided pursuant to the ap-
5 plicable provisions of the Arms Export Control Act
6 (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) and the Foreign Assistance
7 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), notwith-
8 standing any requirement in such applicable provi-
9 sions of law that a recipient of assistance of the type
10 authorized under subsection (b)(1) shall be a coun-
11 try or international organization.

12 (2) CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY.—In addition
13 to such other provisions as the President may re-
14 quire, no defense article, defense service, or related
15 training may be provided to the Kurdistan Regional
16 Government under the authority of subsection (b)(1)
17 or (b)(2) unless the Kurdistan Regional Government
18 agrees that—

19 (A) it will not provide any such defense ar-
20 ticle, defense service, or related training to any-
21 one who is not an officer, employee, or agent of
22 the Kurdistan Regional Government, and

23 (B) it will not use or permit the use of any
24 such defense article, defense service, or related

1 training for purposes other than the purposes
2 for which it was provided,
3 unless the consent of the President has first been
4 obtained.

5 (d) REPORT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
8 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees a report on the following:

10 (A) The anticipated defense articles, de-
11 fense services, and related training to be pro-
12 vided under the authority of subsections (b)(1)
13 and (b)(2).

14 (B) A timeline for the provision of such de-
15 fense articles, defense services, and related
16 training.

17 (C) A description of mechanisms and pro-
18 cedures for end-use monitoring of such defense
19 articles, defense services, and related training.

20 (D) How such defense articles, defense
21 services, and related training would contribute
22 to the foreign policy and national security of
23 the United States, as well as impact security in
24 the region.

1 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
2 “appropriate congressional committees” means—

3 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
4 Committee on Appropriations, and the Com-
5 mittee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
8 the Committee on Appropriations, and the
9 Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

10 (e) NOTIFICATION.—The President should provide
11 notification to the Government of Iraq prior to defense
12 articles, defense services, or related training being pro-
13 vided to the Kurdistan Regional Government under the
14 authority of subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2).

15 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “de-
16 fense article”, “defense service”, and “training” have the
17 meanings given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Ex-
18 port Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

19 (g) TERMINATION.—The authority to provide defense
20 articles, defense services, and related training under sub-
21 section (b)(1) and the authority to issue licenses for ex-
22 ports authorized under subsection (b)(2) shall terminate
23 on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment
24 of this Act.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1654
OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Since 2011, the terrorist group now known
4 as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL),
5 has rapidly expanded, now possessing greater fund-
6 ing, more personnel, and heavier weapons than any
7 other terrorist force.

8 (2) ISIL has threatened to continue attacking
9 United States persons and interests and has an
10 apocalyptic vision for a larger confrontation with the
11 United States and its allies in the Middle East.

12 (3) According to the United States intelligence
13 community, approximately 20,000 to 30,000 ISIL
14 fighters operate in Iraq and Syria, an estimated
15 5,000 of which are believed to have western pass-
16 ports.

1 (4) ISIL finances itself through looting, smug-
2 gling, taxes, oil sales, kidnapping, and human traf-
3 ficking.

4 (5) According to United States officials, ISIL
5 captured approximately 1,500 Humvees, a number
6 of other modern armored vehicles and transport
7 trucks, over 50 long-range Global Positioning Sys-
8 tem (GPS)-guided artillery pieces, a substantial
9 number of artillery shells, a large quantity of small
10 arms, approximately 4,000 heavy machine guns, and
11 other weapons from the Iraqi Security Forces in
12 June 2014, and has also reportedly captured a num-
13 ber of other weapons and vehicles from Bashar al-
14 Assad's forces in Syria.

15 (6) The rapidly deteriorating humanitarian sit-
16 uation in Iraq caused by ISIL advances in Iraq and
17 Syria has resulted in approximately 2,000,000 refu-
18 gees and internally displaced people from Syria and
19 Iraq taking refuge in the Iraqi Kurdistan region.
20 The Kurdistan Regional Government is facing a hu-
21 manitarian and budget crisis while defending itself
22 from ISIL.

23 (7) The Kurdistan Regional Government
24 (KRG) is the democratically elected government of
25 the Kurdistan Region in Iraq, and Iraqi Kurds have

1 been a reliable and stable partner of the United
2 States.

3 (8) The Iraqi constitution guarantees the right
4 of Iraqi regions, such as Iraqi Kurdistan, to main-
5 tain “internal security forces for the region such as
6 police, security forces, and guards of the region”.

7 (9) The Kurdish Peshmerga forces are officially
8 organized under the Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs
9 and commanded by the Minister of Peshmerga, who
10 reports to the President of the Kurdistan Regional
11 Government.

12 (10) ISIL has positioned its forces along a 650-
13 mile border with the Kurdistan Regional Govern-
14 ment’s Peshmerga forces.

15 (11) ISIL has employed captured armored vehi-
16 cles, long-range artillery, and heavy weapons in at-
17 tacking thinly stretched Kurdish forces along the
18 border.

19 (12) United States airstrikes against ISIL tar-
20 gets have helped stall the terrorist organization’s ad-
21 vance on territory held by Kurdish forces, but have
22 not proven to be militarily decisive against ISIL.

23 (13) The United States and its allies have pro-
24 vided the resupply of various small arms and train-
25 ing to Peshmerga forces since June 2014.

1 (14) Such resupply efforts, to comply with
2 United States law, must be approved and coordi-
3 nated through the Government of Iraq. In the initial
4 phase of the resupply effort, the Government of Iraq
5 constrained and delayed the emergency supply of
6 weapons to the Kurdistan Regional Government.

7 (15) The Peshmerga forces continue to lack the
8 arms and battle-ready armored vehicles necessary to
9 sustain significant offensive action against ISIL
10 forces, leading to their requests for such assistance.

11 (16) The possession of armored vehicles, anti-
12 armor weapons, long-range artillery, and other weap-
13 ons is consistent with the Kurdistan Regional Gov-
14 ernment's constitutional right to defend itself
15 against the clear and present danger posed by ISIL.

16 (17) A strong Peshmerga force is essential to
17 countering the ISIL threat to Iraq, the region, and
18 United States interests.

19 (18) The longer ISIL's sanctuary remains
20 largely unchallenged, the more time it will have to
21 reinforce its positions, and plan attacks against
22 United States interests.

23 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) defeating the Islamic State in Iraq and the
2 Levant (ISIL) is critical to maintaining a unified
3 Iraq in which all faiths and ethnicities are afforded
4 equal protection and full integration into the Iraqi
5 government and society;

6 (2) the people of Kurdistan face an urgent and
7 deadly threat from ISIL which the Iraqi Security
8 Forces, of which the Peshmerga are a component,
9 are currently unable to match in armaments;

10 (3) any outstanding issues between the Govern-
11 ment of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Govern-
12 ment should be resolved by the two parties expedi-
13 tiously to allow for a resumption of normal relations;
14 and

15 (4) ISIL's recent advances and continued
16 growth present an imminent threat to Iraqi
17 Kurdistan, the rest of Iraq and the Middle East,
18 and international security.

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20 It shall be the policy of the United States to directly
21 provide the Kurdistan Regional Government with ad-
22 vanced conventional weapons, training, and defense serv-
23 ices, on an emergency and temporary basis, to more effec-
24 tively partner with the United States and other inter-

1 national coalition members to defeat the Islamic State in
2 Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

3 **SEC. 4. TEMPORARY EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION OF DE-**
4 **FENSE ARTICLES, DEFENSE SERVICES, AND**
5 **RELATED TRAINING DIRECTLY TO THE**
6 **KURDISTAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President should consult with
8 the Government of Iraq in carrying out the authority pro-
9 vided in subsection (b).

10 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—

11 (1) MILITARY ASSISTANCE.—The President is
12 authorized to provide defense articles, defense serv-
13 ices, and related training directly to the Kurdistan
14 Regional Government for the purpose of supporting
15 international coalition efforts against the Islamic
16 State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or any closely-
17 related successor entity.

18 (2) DEFENSE EXPORTS.—The President is au-
19 thorized to issue licenses authorizing United States
20 exporters to export defense articles, defense services,
21 and related training directly to the Kurdistan Re-
22 gional Government. For purposes of processing ap-
23 plications for such export licenses, the President is
24 authorized to accept End Use Certificates approved
25 by the Kurdistan Regional Government.

1 (3) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance author-
2 ized under paragraph (1) and exports authorized
3 under paragraph (2) may include anti-tank and anti-
4 armor weapons, armored vehicles, long-range artil-
5 lery, crew-served weapons and ammunition, secure
6 command and communications equipment, body
7 armor, helmets, logistics equipment, excess defense
8 articles and other military assistance that the Presi-
9 dent determines to be appropriate.

10 (c) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES; CON-
11 DITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY.—

12 (1) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORI-
13 TIES.—Assistance authorized under subsection
14 (b)(1) and licenses for export authorized under sub-
15 section (b)(2) shall be provided notwithstanding any
16 eligibility requirement under section 3 of the Arms
17 Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753) or under chap-
18 ter 2 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of
19 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2311 et seq.).

20 (2) CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY.—In addition
21 to such other provisions as the President may re-
22 quire, no defense article, defense service, or related
23 training may be provided to the Kurdistan Regional
24 Government under the authority of subsection (b)(1)

1 or (b)(2) unless the Kurdistan Regional Government
2 agrees that—

3 (A) it will not provide any such defense ar-
4 ticle, defense service, or related training to any-
5 one who is not an officer, employee, or agent of
6 the Kurdistan Regional Government, and

7 (B) it will not use or permit the use of any
8 such defense article, defense service, or related
9 training for purposes other than the purposes
10 for which it was provided,

11 unless the consent of the President has first been
12 obtained.

13 (d) REPORT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
16 shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees a report on the following:

18 (A) The anticipated defense articles, de-
19 fense services, and related training to be pro-
20 vided under the authority of subsections (b)(1)
21 and (b)(2).

22 (B) A timeline for the provision of such de-
23 fense articles, defense services, and related
24 training.

1 (C) A description of mechanisms and pro-
2 cedures for end-use monitoring of such defense
3 articles, defense services, and related training.

4 (D) How such defense articles, defense
5 services, and related training would contribute
6 to the foreign policy and national security of
7 the United States, as well as impact security in
8 the region.

9 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
10 “appropriate congressional committees” means—

11 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
12 Committee on Appropriations, and the Com-
13 mittee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives; and

15 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
16 the Committee on Appropriations, and the
17 Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

18 (e) NOTIFICATION.—The President should provide
19 notification to the Government of Iraq prior to defense
20 articles, defense services, or related training being pro-
21 vided to the Kurdistan Regional Government under the
22 authority of subsection (b)(1) or (b)(2).

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “de-
24 fense article”, “defense service”, and “training” have the

1 meanings given those terms in section 47 of the Arms Ex-
2 port Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

3 (g) TERMINATION.—The authority to provide defense
4 articles, defense services, and related training under sub-
5 section (b)(1) and the authority to issue licenses for ex-
6 ports authorized under subsection (b)(2) shall terminate
7 on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment
8 of this Act.



114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3654

To require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. ROYCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary and Select 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

A BILL

To require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, 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 “Combat Terrorist Use
5 of Social Media Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON STRATEGY TO COMBAT TERRORIST USE**
2 **OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
5 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
6 port on United States strategy to combat terrorists' and
7 terrorist organizations' use of social media.

8 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
9 (a) shall include the following:

10 (1) An evaluation of what role social media
11 plays in radicalization in the United States and else-
12 where.

13 (2) An analysis of how terrorists and terrorist
14 organizations are using social media, including
15 trends.

16 (3) A summary of the Federal Government's ef-
17 forts to disrupt and counter the use of social media
18 by terrorists and terrorist organizations, an evalua-
19 tion of the success of such efforts, and recommenda-
20 tions for improvement.

21 (4) A classified assessment of the intelligence
22 value of social media posts by terrorists and terrorist
23 organizations.

24 (5) A classified overview of social media train-
25 ing available to law enforcement and intelligence
26 personnel that enables such personnel to understand

1 and combat the use of social media by terrorists and
2 terrorist organizations, as well as recommendations
3 for improving or expanding existing training oppor-
4 tunities.

5 (c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
6 should be submitted in sensitive but unclassified form, and
7 may include a classified annex.

8 **SEC. 3. POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO**
9 **COUNTER TERRORISTS' AND TERRORIST OR-**
10 **GANIZATIONS' USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
13 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
14 port that contains the following:

15 (1) A policy that enhances the exchange of in-
16 formation and dialogue between the Federal Govern-
17 ment and social media companies as it relates to the
18 use of social media platforms by terrorists.

19 (2) A comprehensive strategy to counter terror-
20 ists' and terrorist organizations' use of social media,
21 as committed to in the President's 2011 "Strategic
22 Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Part-
23 ners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United
24 States".

1 (b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
2 should be submitted in sensitive but unclassified form, and
3 may include a classified annex.

4 **SEC. 4. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-**
5 **FINED.**

6 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
8 Committee on the Armed Services, the Committee on
9 Homeland Security, and the Permanent Select Committee
10 on Intelligence of the House of Representatives and the
11 Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on
12 Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security
13 and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on
14 Intelligence of the Senate.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3654
OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Combat Terrorist Use
3 of Social Media Act of 2015”.

**4 SEC. 2. REPORT ON STRATEGY TO COMBAT TERRORIST USE
5 OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
8 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
9 port on United States strategy to combat terrorists’ and
10 terrorist organizations’ use of social media.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
12 (a) shall include the following:

13 (1) An evaluation of what role social media
14 plays in radicalization in the United States and else-
15 where.

16 (2) An analysis of how terrorists and terrorist
17 organizations are using social media, including
18 trends.

1 (3) A summary of the Federal Government's ef-
2 forts to disrupt and counter the use of social media
3 by terrorists and terrorist organizations, an evalua-
4 tion of the success of such efforts, and recommenda-
5 tions for improvement.

6 (4) An assessment of the value of social media
7 posts by terrorists and terrorist organizations to law
8 enforcement.

9 (5) An overview of social media training avail-
10 able to law enforcement and intelligence personnel
11 that enables such personnel to understand and com-
12 bat the use of social media by terrorists and ter-
13 rorist organizations, as well as recommendations for
14 improving or expanding existing training opportuni-
15 ties.

16 (c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
17 should be submitted in unclassified form, and may include
18 a classified annex.

19 **SEC. 3. POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO**
20 **COUNTER TERRORISTS' AND TERRORIST OR-**
21 **GANIZATIONS' USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
24 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
25 port that contains the following:

(1) A policy that enhances the exchange of information and dialogue between the Federal Government and social media companies as it relates to the use of social media platforms by terrorists.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) should be submitted in unclassified form, and may include a classified annex.

16 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
18 Committee on the Armed Services, the Committee on
19 Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and
20 the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the
21 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
22 Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Com-
23 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,

- 1 the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Select Committee
- 2 on Intelligence of the Senate.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 3654
OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA**

In subsection (b) of section 2, redesignate paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively.

In subsection (b), insert after paragraph (3) the following:

- 1 (4) An analysis of how social media is being
- 2 used for counter-radicalization and counter-propa-
- 3 ganda purposes, irrespective of whether or not such
- 4 efforts are made by the Federal Government.

In subsection (c) of section 2, insert before the period at the end the following: “in accordance with the protection of intelligence sources and methods”.

In section 3, amend subsection (a) to read as follows:

- 5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
- 6 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
- 7 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
- 8 port that contains a comprehensive strategy to counter

1 terrorists’ and terrorist organizations’ use of social media,
2 as committed to in the President’s 2011 “Strategic Imple-
3 mentation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Pre-
4 vent Violent Extremism in the United States”.

In subsection (b) of section 3, insert before the pe-
riod at the end the following: “in accordance with the
protection of intelligence sources and methods”.



114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4154

To direct the President to submit to Congress a time frame for the transfer of certain naval vessels to Taiwan pursuant to section 102(b) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2013, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 2, 2015

Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SALMON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the President to submit to Congress a time frame for the transfer of certain naval vessels to Taiwan pursuant to section 102(b) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2013, 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 “Taiwan Naval Support
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TIME FRAME FOR TRANSFER OF CERTAIN NAVAL**
2 **VESSELS TO TAIWAN.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-
5 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a time
6 frame for the transfer of naval vessels to Taiwan pursuant
7 to section 102(b) of the Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2013
8 (Public Law 113–276; 128 Stat. 2989).

9 (b) FORM.—The time frame required under sub-
10 section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but
11 may contain a classified annex.

12 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
13 priate congressional committees” has the meaning given
14 such term in section 1 of Public Law 113–276.

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 346

Condemning the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. YOHIO (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COOK, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. CLAWSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Condemning the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Whereas, as a result of over four years of civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic, Syrian deaths have climbed to more than 230,000 deaths, and more than 6,000,000 Syrians have been displaced;

Whereas the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic released its report on September 16, 2013, confirming that surface-to-surface rockets containing the nerve agent Sarin were used in the Ghouta area of Damascus on August 21, 2013, an attack which killed over 1,400 people according to a United States Government assessment;

Whereas the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council adopted a decision on September 27, 2013, which required Syria to destroy its chemical weapons program by June 30, 2014;

Whereas a White House statement on August 18, 2014, marking the end of destruction operations on the MV Cape Ray said that “serious questions remain with respect to the omissions and discrepancies in Syria’s declaration to the OPCW and about continued allegations of use”;

Whereas chlorine gas attacks in northern Syria have been repeatedly reported since mid-April 2014;

Whereas although chlorine is not required to be declared or destroyed under the Chemical Weapons Convention, its use in warfare is still prohibited under the Convention;

Whereas the OPCW established a Fact-Finding Mission to investigate allegations of the use of weaponized chlorine;

Whereas in the OPCW’s second report released on September 10, 2014, the investigators concluded they have “compelling confirmation” that a toxic chemical was used “systematically and repeatedly” as a weapon against villages in northern Syria and that “chlorine, either pure or in mixture” was used in attacks on the villages of Talmanes, Al Tamanah, and Kafr Zeta;

Whereas, on March 6, 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2209 (2015), condemning the use of chlorine gas as a weapon in Syria and that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons including chlorine must be held accountable;

Whereas in a June 16, 2015, hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, United States Permanent Representa-

tive to the United Nations, Samantha Power, testified that there are alarming and grave reports that the Assad regime has been turning chlorine into a chemical weapon;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated on June 16, 2015, that he was “absolutely certain” that the Assad regime has used chlorine against his people;

Whereas despite the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2209, the Assad regime has continued its chlorine attacks;

Whereas chemical weapons, including chlorine, are but one of the many heinous and violent methods with which the Assad regime kills its own citizens;

Whereas barrel bombs dropped from helicopters are the primary method of delivery for the Assad regime’s chemical weapons;

Whereas the Assad regime’s control over Syrian airspace facilitates his regime’s use of chlorine gas against his citizens; and

Whereas Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey stated in a letter to Congress that a no-fly zone would result in “the near total elimination of the regime’s ability to bomb opposition strongholds and sustain its forces by air”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the Assad regime for its atrocities

3 against the Syrian people, including its use of chlo-

4 rine as a weapon;

1 (2) condemns the use of any toxic chemical, in-
2 cluding chlorine, as a weapon in the Syrian Arab
3 Republic;

4 (3) maintains that those who have engaged in
5 such unlawful actions should be held accountable by
6 the international community and urges the President
7 to report to Congress on the use of chemical weap-
8 ons, including chlorine, in Syria;

9 (4) maintains that no party in Syria should use,
10 develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, retain, or trans-
11 fer chemical weapons, including weapons employing
12 chlorine;

13 (5) calls on the Administration to—

14 (A) continue offering material support to
15 appropriate programs and individuals collecting
16 evidence of the use of chemical weapons inside
17 of Syria;

18 (B) assist in the cataloguing and preserva-
19 tion of evidence of use and responsibility of use
20 of chemical weapons; and

21 (C) facilitate the future transfer of evi-
22 dence of the use of chemical weapons to an ap-
23 propriate legal forum for use in prosecuting
24 those responsible for the illegal use of chemical
25 weapons; and

- 1 (6) urges the international community to estab-
2 lish a comprehensive strategy regarding Syria which
3 may include the possibility of establishing a no-fly
4 zone in Syria.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 346
OFFERED BY MR. YOHIO OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas more than 4 years of civil war in the Syrian Arab Republic have resulted in over 250,000 deaths, more than 6,500,000 internally displaced refugees, and at least 4,000,000 people who have fled the country;

Whereas the United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic released its report on September 16, 2013, confirming that surface-to-surface rockets containing the nerve agent sarin were used in the Ghouta area of Damascus on August 21, 2013, an attack which killed over 1,400 people according to a United States Government assessment;

Whereas the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council adopted a decision on September 27, 2013, which required Syria to destroy its chemical weapons program by June 30, 2014;

Whereas a White House statement on August 18, 2014, marking the end of destruction operations on the MV Cape Ray said that “serious questions remain with respect to the omissions and discrepancies in Syria’s declaration to the OPCW and about continued allegations of use”;

Whereas chlorine gas attacks in northern Syria have been repeatedly reported since mid-April 2014;

Whereas although chlorine is not required to be declared or destroyed under the Chemical Weapons Convention, its use in warfare is still prohibited under the Convention;

Whereas the OPCW established a Fact-Finding Mission to investigate allegations of the use of weaponized chlorine;

Whereas in the OPCW's second report released on September 10, 2014, the investigators concluded they have "compelling confirmation" that a toxic chemical was used "systematically and repeatedly" as a weapon against villages in northern Syria and that "chlorine, either pure or in mixture" was used in attacks on the villages of Talmanes, Al Tamanah, and Kafr Zeta;

Whereas, on March 6, 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2209 (2015), condemning the use of chlorine gas as a weapon in Syria and that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons including chlorine must be held accountable;

Whereas on August 7, 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2235 (2015) to establish a Joint Investigative Mechanism of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to identify individuals, entities, groups or Governments perpetrating, organizing, sponsoring or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria;

Whereas in a June 16, 2015, hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Samantha Power, testified that there are alarming and grave reports that the

Assad regime has been turning chlorine into a chemical weapon;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated on June 16, 2015, that he was “absolutely certain” that the Assad regime has used chlorine against his people;

Whereas despite the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2209, the Assad regime has continued its chlorine attacks;

Whereas chemical weapons, including chlorine, are but one of the many heinous and violent methods with which the Assad regime kills its own citizens;

Whereas barrel bombs dropped from helicopters are the primary method of delivery for the Assad regime’s chemical weapons;

Whereas the Assad regime’s control over Syrian airspace facilitates his regime’s use of chlorine gas against his citizens; and

Whereas Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey stated in a letter to Congress that a no-fly zone would result in “the near total elimination of the regime’s ability to bomb opposition strongholds and sustain its forces by air”: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- 1 (1) condemns the Assad regime for its atrocities
- 2 against the Syrian people, including its use of chlo-
- 3 rine as a weapon;

1 (2) condemns the use of any toxic chemical, in-
2 cluding chlorine, as a weapon in the Syrian Arab
3 Republic;

4 (3) maintains that those who have engaged in
5 such unlawful actions should be held accountable
6 and urges the President to report to Congress on the
7 use of chemical weapons, including chlorine, in
8 Syria;

9 (4) maintains that no party in Syria should use,
10 develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, retain, or trans-
11 fer chemical weapons, including weapons employing
12 chlorine;

13 (5) calls on the Administration to—

14 (A) continue offering material support to
15 appropriate programs and individuals collecting
16 evidence of the use of chemical weapons inside
17 Syria;

18 (B) assist in the cataloguing and preserva-
19 tion of evidence of use and responsibility of use
20 of chemical weapons; and

21 (C) facilitate the future transfer of evi-
22 dence of the use of chemical weapons to an ap-
23 propriate legal forum for use in prosecuting
24 those responsible for the illegal use of chemical
25 weapons; and

1 (6) urges the United States to work with its al-
2 lies and partners to establish a comprehensive strat-
3 egy regarding Syria which may include the possi-
4 bility of establishing a no-fly zone in Syria.



114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 536

Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Mr. STRES (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech.

Whereas despite the strong tradition of independent and critical media in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, journalists in some countries are becoming increasingly vulnerable to violence and government harassment;

Whereas, on July 29, 2015, the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee convened a hearing titled “Threats to Press Freedom in the Americas” and Carlos Lauria, Senior Americas Program Coordinator at the Committee to Protect Journalists stated that “Scores of journalists have

been killed and disappeared. Media outlets have been bombed and forced into censorship. . . . Censorship due to violence in Latin America has reached one of its highest points since most of the region was dominated by military rule more than three decades ago.”;

Whereas in 2014, Cuban authorities detained 1,817 members of civil society, 31 of whom were independent journalists;

Whereas in Cuba, independent journalists face sustained harassment, including detention and physical abuse from the Castro regime;

Whereas in Ecuador, in September 2015, the government took steps to close the sole press freedom monitoring organization, Fundamedios, for exceeding its corporate charter, but the government relented in the face of international criticism and potential economic reprisals, demonstrating the value of resolutions such as this;

Whereas in the country, forced corrections by the government have become a means of institutional censorship;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for the press;

Whereas in Mexico, over 50 journalists have been killed or have disappeared since 2007, at least 11 reporters have been killed since 2011, 4 of them in direct reprisal for their work;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 4 journalists have been killed in Brazil in 2015, many times after being tortured and having their bodies mutilated;

Whereas Evany José Metzker, a political blogger in the state of Minas Gerais who had been investigating a child pros-

titution ring, was found decapitated outside the town of Padre Paraíso;

Whereas according to the Organization of American States (OAS) 2014 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human rights, journalists covering protests in Venezuela were subject to assaults, obstruction, detention, raids, threats, censorship orders, and confiscation or destruction of equipment;

Whereas, on April 21, 2015, a lawsuit within the 29th District Tribunal of the Metropolitan area of Caracas charged the journal El Nacional and its Chief Editor Miguel Henrique Otero for “reproducing false information” and was forced to flee Venezuela;

Whereas the Honduran national human rights commissioner reported that 8 journalists and social communicators were killed as of September, compared with 3 in 2013, and dozens of cases in which journalists reported being victims of threats and persecution;

Whereas according to the OAS 2014 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Members of the media and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) stated the press “self-censored” due to fear of reprisal from organized crime or corrupt government officials;

Whereas in Colombia, there were 98 incidents of violence and harassment against journalists, 30 were physically attacked, and 45 were victims of harassment or intimidation due to their reporting;

Whereas members of illegal armed groups sought to inhibit freedom of expression by intimidating, threatening, kidnapping, and killing journalists;

Whereas national and international NGOs reported that local media representatives regularly practiced self-censorship because of threats of violence from these groups;

Whereas according to the OAS 2014 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human rights, throughout 2014, Guatemala presented accounts of cases of harassment and the filing of several criminal complaints against a newspaper that criticized the Administration;

Whereas according to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 in Nicaragua, the government continued to use direct and indirect means to pressure and seek to close independent radio stations, allegedly for political reasons;

Whereas according to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 in Argentina, a survey released of 830 journalists throughout the country indicated 53 percent of respondents worked for a media outlet that self-censored content; and

Whereas almost half the journalists surveyed said they self-censored in their reporting on the national government:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports a free press in Latin America and
3 the Caribbean and condemns violations of press free-
4 dom and violence against journalists;

5 (2) urges countries in the region to implement
6 recommendations from the Organization of Amer-
7 ican States' Office of the Special Rapporteur for
8 Freedom of Expression to its Member States;

1 (3) urges countries in Latin America and the
2 Caribbean to be vocal in condemning violations of
3 press freedom, violence against journalists, and the
4 culture of impunity that leads to self-censorship;

5 (4) urges countries in Latin American and the
6 Caribbean to uphold the principles outlined in the
7 Inter-American Democratic Charter and urges their
8 neighbors in the region to stand by the charter they
9 are a party to; and

10 (5) urges the United States Agency for Inter-
11 national Development and the Department of State
12 to assist, when appropriate, the media in closed soci-
13 eties to promote an open and free press.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 536
OFFERED BY MR. SIRES OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas despite the strong tradition of independent and critical media in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, journalists in some countries are becoming increasingly vulnerable to violence and government harassment;

Whereas, on July 29, 2015, the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee convened a hearing titled “Threats to Press Freedom in the Americas” and Carlos Lauria, Senior Americas Program Coordinator at the Committee to Protect Journalists stated that “Scores of journalists have been killed and disappeared. Media outlets have been bombed and forced into censorship. . . . Censorship due to violence in Latin America has reached one of its highest points since most of the region was dominated by military rule more than three decades ago.”;

Whereas in 2014, Cuban authorities detained 1,817 members of civil society, 31 of whom were independent journalists;

Whereas in Cuba, independent journalists face sustained harassment, including detention and physical abuse from the Castro regime;

Whereas in Ecuador, in September 2015, the government took steps to close the sole press freedom monitoring organization, Fundamedios, for exceeding its corporate

charter, but the government relented in the face of international criticism and potential economic reprisals;

Whereas in the country, forced corrections by the government have become a means of institutional censorship;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for the press;

Whereas in Mexico, over 50 journalists have been killed or have disappeared since 2007, at least 11 reporters have been killed since 2011, 4 of them in direct reprisal for their work;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 4 journalists have been killed in Brazil in 2015, many times after being tortured and having their bodies mutilated;

Whereas Evany José Metzker, a political blogger in the state of Minas Gerais who had been investigating a child prostitution ring, was found decapitated outside the town of Padre Paraíso;

Whereas according to the Organization of American States (OAS) 2014 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human rights, journalists covering protests in Venezuela were subject to assaults, obstruction, detention, raids, threats, censorship orders, and confiscation or destruction of equipment;

Whereas, on April 21, 2015, a lawsuit within the 29th District Tribunal of the Metropolitan area of Caracas charged the journal El Nacional and its Chief Editor Miguel Henrique Otero for “reproducing false information” and was forced to flee Venezuela;

Whereas the Honduran national human rights commissioner reported that 8 journalists and social communicators were killed as of September, compared with 3 in 2013, and dozens of cases in which journalists reported being victims of threats and persecution;

Whereas according to the OAS 2014 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Members of the media and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) stated the press “self-censored” due to fear of reprisal from organized crime or corrupt government officials;

Whereas in Colombia, there were 98 incidents of violence and harassment against journalists, 30 were physically attacked, and 45 were victims of harassment or intimidation due to their reporting;

Whereas members of illegal armed groups sought to inhibit freedom of expression by intimidating, threatening, kidnapping, and killing journalists;

Whereas national and international NGOs reported that local media representatives regularly practiced self-censorship because of threats of violence from these groups;

Whereas according to the OAS 2014 Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human rights, throughout 2014, Guatemala presented accounts of cases of harassment and the filing of several criminal complaints against a newspaper that criticized the Administration;

Whereas according to the Department of State’s Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 in Nicaragua, the government continued to use direct and indirect means to pressure and seek to close independent radio stations, allegedly for political reasons;

Whereas according to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2014 in Argentina, a survey released of 830 journalists throughout the country indicated 53 percent of respondents worked for a media outlet that self-censored content; and

Whereas almost half the journalists surveyed said they self-censored in their reporting on the national government:
Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

- 1 (1) supports a free press in Latin America and
2 the Caribbean and condemns violations of press free-
3 dom and violence against journalists;
- 4 (2) urges countries in the region to implement
5 recommendations from the Organization of Amer-
6 ican States' Office of the Special Rapporteur for
7 Freedom of Expression to its Member States;
- 8 (3) urges countries in Latin America and the
9 Caribbean to be vocal in condemning violations of
10 press freedom, violence against journalists, and the
11 culture of impunity that leads to self-censorship;
- 12 (4) urges countries in the Western Hemisphere
13 to uphold the principles outlined in the Inter-Amer-
14 ican Democratic Charter and urges their neighbors

1 in the region to stand by the charter they are a
2 party to; and

3 (5) urges the United States Agency for Inter-
4 national Development and the Department of State
5 to assist, when appropriate, the media in closed soci-
6 eties to promote an open and free press.



Chairman ROYCE. And after recognizing myself and the ranking member, I'll be pleased to recognize any members seeking recognition to speak on these measures.

So, we go first to H.R. 1654. This goes to the issue of the effort by Kurdish forces. We heard testimony in the House, from Secretary of Defense Carter and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford. Both stated that they would be prepared to recommend providing direct military assistance to the Kurds and Sunni tribes.

I would point out to the members that the Peshmerga is organized under the Iraqi constitution. Their role is to safeguard Iraqi Kurdistan. And, in particular, the Kurds are the sole U.S. allied force operating on the ground against ISIS in Syria and Iraq, and this has allowed them to conduct ongoing coordinated offensive operations in North Eastern Syria and in Sinjar, Iraq. This offensive, if they're successful ultimately, could sever control of the road connecting the major ISIS-held cities of Raqqa and Mosul in Syria and Iraq. So, it is very much in our interest to make certain, especially given the significant territory and the some 8 million people under that territory that's controlled by ISIS, that ISIS do not have the safehaven that they used to plan the attacks in Paris and that, frankly, inspired the attacks on the United States. And to keep America safe, I believe we've got to work with our partners on the ground to eliminate these sanctuaries and deny ISIS both the space and resources to drive additional attacks.

For the last year and a half we've had one effective fighter in this fight. It is the 160,000 strong Peshmerga force, 30 percent of these battalions by the way are women fighting on the battlefields in their own battalions on the front lines against ISIS on a 650 mile front. They have proven themselves as the most dedicated and effective force against ISIS in Iraq; not without considerable casualties, by the way, with 8,500 killed and wounded on those front lines. And we're told by our friends in the Pentagon a lot of those losses are caused by the fact that they're outmatched in firepower in terms of the weaponry on the front lines. They are poorly armed, poorly equipped, especially when compared to either the Iraqi Army or the Iranian-backed Shia militias, or most crucially here, ISIS itself.

Light arms from Saddam's rule, some of their materiel dates back to the Second World War, a lot of it's Soviet-era equipment that will break down. This isn't enough against an enemy that is determined to rip Iraq and Syria apart, butchering Iraqis, and Syrians, and now Americans.

So, the Iraqi military remains unable to field a joint Sunni-Shiite force. We hope they're able to do so in the future, but at this moment they're relying instead on Iranian-backed militias to fight ISIS. On the other hand, the Kurds in Northern Iraq are our best allies in the theater, the most effective local fighters against ISIS. And rather than fleeing from ISIS, they stand to fight with antiquated weapons as they continue to share with us.

Last month it was the Kurdish forces on the ground and the Americans in the air that retook Sinjar. The Kurdish forces have accompanied U.S. special forces on night raids, a role that will likely increase given Defense Secretary Carter's announcement last

week. They would like to get those night-vision goggles, by the way.

So, this legislation would allow the United States to directly arm Kurdish forces so they can get the artillery, the anti-tank weapons, the long-range mortars, and the training and combat medicine that they need.

This authorization, which is time-limited, would allow U.S. security assistance to go directly to the Kurdish Regional Government rather than routing it through the sectarian maze that is Baghdad, where they've yet to get the kind of heavy equipment that they need in this fight.

The goal, obviously, is not Kurdish independence and we make that clear in the language of this legislation, but it is to get the needed materials to the most active battlefield with ISIS. This is urgent legislation to counter the grave and direct threats ISIS poses to the United States, and ultimately is going to require the combined efforts of all Iraqis, including the Sunni tribesmen who have not gotten the support they desperately need from the United States. We met with them last week, some of their leadership, tribal leadership, and certainly it's going to require Baghdad to be inclusive here to finally defeat and destroy ISIS.

Second, we have H.R. 3654, the Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act of 2015. And I appreciate Judge Poe introducing this bill. It's going to force and put the heat on the administration to put forward a strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, a strategy that the President talked about in 2011, but we haven't had that strategy put forward yet. So, this is Congress weighing in and saying let's have that strategy developed, because exactly 1 week ago in San Bernardino, California we had 14 people killed, 21 people injured by radical Islamists. And we know that these extremists, the husband and the wife, used social media, one of them making a pledge on Facebook to support ISIS.

Extremist groups have turned to Twitter, to Facebook, and YouTube to recruit, and it's the strength of momentum of ISIS on the ground that allows them to do this, but they're recruiting, they're radicalizing, and they're encouraging attacks on our free society. Social media companies have taken some steps to remove terrorist content, but it is clear that much more needs to be done.

The administration must lay out how we will contend with these terrorists hijacking the social network, ironically created by the free and pluralistic society that they so despise for their own twisted purposes.

And I want to thank Representative Issa for working with Representative Poe and the committee on changes to strengthen this bill, and to allow us to learn more about the ways the U.S. Government and the private sector are using social media to push back on extremist messaging.

Then we have House Resolution 346 condemning the use of chemical weapons in Syria. And earlier this year, Secretary Kerry testified that the administration had succeeded in getting all the chemical weapons out of Syria. That, unfortunately, as we've had hearings here about the barrel bombs and the chemical weapons that are still being dropped, the first responders are telling us from the front lines in Syria that Assad has been pummeling his own

people with an unending series of bombs filled with weaponized chlorine, and this has been confirmed. These attacks fuel the flight of refugees both inside and outside of Syria, and create an environment in which ISIS can thrive. So, members on this committee have long pressed for consideration of a no-fly or safe zone to stop the barrel bombs, the chemical weapon bombs, something this resolution addresses.

I want to thank Representative Yoho for his leadership on this critical issue, and urge all members to support this resolution.

Then we go to the Taiwan Naval Support Act. This is 4154. It's been almost 1 year since the President signed into law the Naval Vessel Transfer Act. That's legislation that I had authored, and we pushed through which authorized the President to transfer decommissioned Naval vessels to Taiwan. Since then, the administration has failed to notify Congress of its intent to transfer these vessels, which has caused the U.S. Navy to delay its refurbishment and transfer one of the ships out of Hawaii. This is an unnecessary setback, and complicates planning for Taiwan's Navy, as Representative Sherman has pointed out to us. And I want to thank Representative Sherman for introducing this measure today which will press the administration to submit a timeline to Congress for when these transfers will occur. Insuring they are timely is important to bolstering Taiwan's defense and to insuring peace in the Taiwan Straits.

And turning to the Press Freedom in the Western Hemisphere Act, I think this is a cornerstone of any democracy. It's our obligation to promote and protect this fundamental human right. We have all been troubled by the erosion of press freedoms in our own hemisphere at the hands of authoritarian, populist leaders and transnational criminal organizations to boot, so this resolution is an important expression of our support for the fundamental right to free expression, and of our belief that regional leaders and the OAS need to do more to condemn what in some parts is the systemic violation of press freedom.

So, I commend Mr. Sires for introducing this resolution, and all who champion freedom of expression as a fundamental part of a vibrant, dramatic tradition. As he says, "This resolution will champion their cause." So, with that said, I'll turn to Mr. Engel, our ranking member.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this Markup, our final Full Committee Markup of 2015. Let me say again how proud I am of the work of the Foreign Affairs Committee and of our members on both sides of the aisle. This year we've racked up an impressive record of achievement, and I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership and your commitment to leaving politics at the water's edge. And I want to also take this opportunity to remind our colleagues on both sides of the aisle that today at 5:00, from 5 o'clock to 7 o'clock in this very room the Foreign Affairs Committee is having its holiday party, and we hope that every member will attend. There'll be plenty of food, and it'll be another nice chance to get together.

So, we have a raft of good measures before us today, and I'll say a few words about each. I'll start, Mr. Chairman, with your legislation to provide defense training and equipment directly to the

Kurdish Regional Government. Kurdish forces in Northern Iraq have been some of our closest partners in the fight against ISIS. They're tough fighters getting real results, rolling back the gains ISIS has made. We need to make sure the Kurds have everything they need to defend themselves and keep the pressure on ISIS. They have really been loyal and true allies and friends.

Current law requires all military assistance for the Kurds to flow through Baghdad. Now, this has caused some delays in the shipment of arms to Kurdish forces, and complicated efforts to supply the Kurds with the heavy weapons they need, including anti-tank missiles, armored vehicles, and long-range artillery.

This legislation removes those roadblocks. It would authorize the President to provide military equipment directly to the Iraqi Kurds for a period of 3 years. It urges the President to continue consulting with the Iraqi Government, and it requires that the weapons provided to the Kurds be used to meet our shared goal of defeating ISIS. This just makes sense. The Kurds are making progress, and we need to keep the wind at their backs. But while the Kurds are great partners and formidable fighters, they cannot take on ISIS all by themselves, particularly outside of the traditional Kurdish areas of Iraq.

At the end of the day, defeating ISIS will take the combined efforts of all Iraqis, and I want to be absolutely clear on this point; while the legislation is focused on supporting the Kurds, it does not in any way dial back America's commitment to other Iraqi partners. It does not endorse a divided Iraq, rather it gets military equipment where it will do the most good more quickly, period. In fact, it's imperative that we do keep working closely with Iraq's Government.

Many of us have serious questions about the performance of the Iraqi Army, and deep concerns about the role of Iran-backed militias, but it's clear that the Iraqi security forces have a central role to play. I know on another day we can talk about the Kurds because I think the Kurds are people that deserve international support, and that's another issue to talk about later on, whether or not the Kurds should be trapped in an Iraq that seems spiraling, continuing to spiral out of control. But right now, it's very important that Iraqi security forces do have a central role to play.

We should also support Christians, Yazidis, and other ethnic and religious minorities. Many of these groups have borne the brunt of ISIS terror and now want to help liberate their towns and villages.

Finally, we should find new ways to collaborate with the Sunni population of Iraq. The Sunnis will play a vital role defeating ISIS, just as they were key to the defeat of al-Qaeda during the Iraq War, but they need training and equipment, so we need to work with the Iraqi Government to get them the support they need, and to make clear that they have a stake in the future of a unified Iraq. I know we are all aggravated over the fact that they seem to cut and run and let ISIS take over swaths of territory. Well, instead of just wringing our hands, we really need to do something about it. And this, I believe, will.

Next, I'll turn to Mr. Poe and Mr. Sherman's bill to Combat the Use of Social Media by Terrorist Groups. I'm very proud to cosponsor this legislation. Perhaps the most searing images we've seen of

ISIS are of Jihadi John, as he was known, standing over the bodies of his victims, images and videos that ISIS blasted around the world on social media. Thankfully, we don't have to worry about him any more, but whether on Twitter or YouTube, terrorist groups continue to take full advantage of social media to spread their message of violence and hatred. With the click of a button, groups like ISIS can use these platforms to broadcast video of their heinous acts, solicit foreign fighters, and radicalize vulnerable people around the world.

We need a strategy to push back against terrorists use of social media to foster greater collaboration between government and provide sector companies, and to help identify and stop terrorist activities online. This bill calls for that strategy and will help us take on ISIS and other groups on the virtual battlefield. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Moving on, I'm happy to support this Taiwan Naval Support Act sponsored by Mr. Sherman, the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. I'm a strong supporter of Taiwan, and I think Taiwan needs to maintain a strong defense. Nearly a year ago, the Naval Vessel Transfer Act was signed. This bill authorized the sale of four guided missile frigates to Taiwan. Taiwan is ready to buy at least two of them, and restoration is underway, but Congress has yet to be notified of a transfer.

Now, in my view we should be seeing even more regular transfers of equipment that would help shore up Taiwanese security. I know sales to Taiwan are always a touchy issue because our dealings with China are sensitive. We don't want to derail our work with China on issues of mutual concern, but our desire not to upset Beijing shouldn't come at the expense of Taiwan security.

This bill would require the President to commit to a timeline for these sales, and communicate that timeline to Congress. It wouldn't force a deadline, but it would let us know that these sales are on track. We owe at least this much to our friends and partners in Taiwan. I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I also want to voice my support for Mr. Yoho's resolution condemning the use of chemical weapons in Syria, and I thank him for his work on this measure. Two years ago, the world was shocked when the Assad Regime killed 1,400 of its own people, including hundreds of children in a chemical weapons attack in the outskirts of Damascus.

In response to pressure from the international community, including the threat of force from the U.S., the Assad Regime agreed to give up all of its chemical weapons and join the Chemical Weapons Convention. But even before I wrote the Syria Accountability Act a decade ago, I never trusted Assad to keep his word. And true to form, he hasn't lived up to the letter or spirit of what he promised to do.

Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen partnered with me on the Syria Accountability Act when few knew about Assad, but we knew about Assad. And we knew that Assad was a negative force in the region, to say the least.

Many experts believe that Assad failed to declare all of his banned chemical weapons to the international community. And we

know for a fact that the regime has increasingly used chlorine as a chemical weapon, which is prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

This resolution condemns the Assad Regime's use of chlorine as a chemical weapon, calls for those involved in this unlawful activity to be held accountable, and urges the administration to support efforts to collect evidence of the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

And lastly, let me thank Mr. Sires for offering this resolution supporting press freedom in Latin America and the Caribbean, and condemning violence against journalists. I am deeply troubled that the freedom of the press is under grave threat in some countries right here in our neighborhood. We hear a great deal from regional leaders in the Americas when electoral democracy is at risk, and I appreciate this. Unfortunately, we hear too little about the subtle challenges to democracy, particularly violations of press freedom.

When the Ecuadorian Government threatened to close down Punta Medeos earlier this year, Chairman Royce and I strongly condemned the effort. Fortunately, President Correa relented in the face of international condemnation, but this is just one example. Violence against journalists has become a scourge in the Americas. Being a journalist in Colombia, Mexico, and Honduras is a very dangerous business. Of course, there is no press freedom in Cuba. Venezuela is also a worry, and a country that represses freedom; although, the election held there a few days ago gives us pause for hope.

This resolution shines a light on the problem and urges these governments to do more to provide protection to those journalists under threat, and I'm pleased to support it.

So, once again, Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership and for bringing all these measures forward today. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Engel. We now go to Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and any other members who are seeking recognition, but Ileana Ros-Lehtinen from Florida.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Engel for convening this Markup, and bringing up all of these important measures in front of our committee in a bipartisan manner as you always do.

I would also like to express my strong support for House Resolution 536 introduced by my dear friend, Albio Sires, of which I am the lead Republican sponsor. Freedom of expression is under attack in Latin America. We've seen it in Venezuela where the Maduro regime has used intimidation and control of the media to repress the opposition. Courageously, the opposition was able to beat the odds and took control of the legislature by a super majority just this past weekend. I congratulate the Venezuelan people on their tremendous win, but there's still a long road ahead.

We need all political prisoners to be released immediately, including pro-democracy advocate, Leopoldo Lopez. In Nicaragua, Ortega just forced through a new sovereignty security law that could be used to further harass and intimidate the people in the media to impede freedom of expression. I worry that Ortega will use this as yet another tool to clamp down on civil society and silence the media as we approach next year's Presidential election.

In Cuba, as both of you have pointed out, the Castro regime continues to control all print and broadcast media, and blocks and censors the internet. The regime also threatens, beats, jails, and tortures any perceived opposition, intimidating the Cuban people into self-censorship. Cuba has long been infamous for these tactics, but we also see in Venezuela, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Ecuador many like-minded dictatorships in Latin America. Regimes that want to control the flow of information to stay in power, repress any dissent before their survival is threatened, employ these tactics.

It's crucial that we as a country continue to speak out against these tactics and that we do everything that we can to stand up for this fundamental human right to express freely one's views. So, I thank Albio for offering his important resolution. I offer my full support, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I also want to thank my friend and colleague from Florida, Dr. Ted Yoho, for introducing House Resolution 346, condemning Assad for committing mass atrocities and for the use of chemical weapons, including chlorine barrel bombs.

I was an original cosponsor of this measure, and I fully support it. This important resolution reminds us all of the grim reality and the true nature of the Assad regime. The idea that Assad should be part of a political solution, or that he can be a partner in the war against ISIS, and the war against terror, is appalling. Assad's ruthless tactics and wanton disregard for human rights and the sanctity of life has been a key reason why the Syrian conflict has been so devastating, and why ISIS has grown dramatically.

Assad's actions have led to the deaths of over 220,000 Syrians. Because of Assad, we have millions of refugees fleeing into the Middle East and Europe destabilizing these regions and taxing their resources.

In July, the Wall Street Journal reported that U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that the Assad regime did not give up all of its chemical weapons, and now some reports suggest that ISIS may be in possession of chemical weapons, as well. And what has been the punishment from the international community for Assad's deception? Nothing. So, if the international community is not willing to punish Assad for using chemical weapons, and then lying about destroying all of its stockpiles, what faith do we have in keeping the Iranian regime accountable for its nuclear weapons program? This is a very dangerous situation, Mr. Chairman, and I believe that it is not receiving the attention it merits, so that's why I thank my Florida colleague, Dr. Yoho, for bringing this bipartisan resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and condemn the use of chemical weapons.

Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Ileana. We now go to Mr. Brad Sherman of California.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're considering five excellent bills here today. They're commonsense, they're bipartisan, and that reflects the leadership that the chair and the ranking member have brought to this committee.

I'll address three of those bills. First, the Taiwan Naval Support Act. I want to thank the chairman for bringing up this bill, which we put together with a lot of input from others. And I want to

thank the chairman, ranking member, and Mr. Salmon, the chairman of the Asia Subcommittee for cosponsoring the bill.

When we look at the East and South China Sea, we see China becoming more aggressive. Already, we are spending tens or hundreds of billions of dollars on research, procurement, planning, and deployment designed to confront China. That invariably creates risks for the United States, and most of that is focused on uninhabited islets. In contrast, look at Taiwan. What is at stake is not uninhabited reefs but the entire country. And Taiwan is not asking us for deployment, or to spend money. They are simply asking for the tools to defend themselves.

When it comes to these frigates the time has come to transfer the frigging frigates. We should be helping Taiwan defend—

Mr. CONNOLLY. Is that a technical term, Mr. Sherman?

Mr. SHERMAN. Yes, it is, and it's in the statute with a page and a half of definition. Yes.

When it comes to helping Taiwan defend itself, I think it should be classified as a major non-NATO ally, and I offered an amendment back 15 years ago to do just that. If that had passed, we wouldn't even need, I think, to prod the administration as we do now.

In 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act was signed into law, and it requires the United States to make available to Taiwan such defense articles as may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain sufficient defense capacities, self-defense capacities.

In December 2014, this Congress passed the Naval Vessel Transfer Act, and authorized the sale of four frigates to Taiwan, and the President signed that bill into law. Taiwan has indicated it's ready to purchase two frigates out of the four. It has the money to do so. It faces a budgetary deadline at the end of 2015, and it's time for the administration to move forward with this transfer.

What this bill does is requires the administration to give Congress a timeline. I hope they transfer the frigates before they give us the timeline. That would be a very good timeline.

Next, I'm pleased to join with Mr. Poe as the lead Democratic sponsor of the Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act. Three things about the bill. The State Department's current strategy for countering ISIS and other extremist groups online is obviously not working. That's not my opinion, that's the State Department's internal opinion which concluded in June of this year, when it comes to the external message, our narrative is being trumped by ISIS. We are losing a popularity contest to people that behead women.

Public information also shows the State Department's strategy isn't working. The Think Again Turn Away Twitter campaign has 24,000 followers. In order to reach out to those who might be swayed by ISIS, you're going to need a much bigger following. This bill requires the State Department to reassess their approach and come up with a better, more effective strategy.

Second, I'm hoping that this bill will prod the State Department to hire experts in Islamic theology, and in Islamic jurisprudence. Not everybody they hire has to be a graduate of an Ivy League school, or a top American school. We need just a couple of folks over there, graduates of Al-Azhar University in Egypt. I'm not saying the State Department can issue a fatwa, but somebody at the

State Department should be paid because they're an expert at knowing who should be issuing a fatwa, and how to make our arguments consistent with all of the intricacies of Islamic law, and Islamic jurisprudence.

Finally, the social media companies have played a role in this. I believe Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter have a responsibility to make sure that their platforms are not used by terrorists. Facebook, YouTube, and with some prodding from members of this committee, Twitter, have made changes to take down bad content, but that won't work effectively if the State Department isn't identifying the bad content. The only thing worse than playing Whac-A-Mole is to not whack the moles. And every time one of these terrorist sites pops up, we should get it before the intended audience and have it taken down before the intended audience. So, I look forward to the passage of the legislation and to a much better strategy from the State Department.

Finally, as far as arming the Kurdish regional government, it's about time. We wouldn't have to do it if Baghdad had been reasonable, but if Baghdad had been reasonable we wouldn't even have ISIS to begin with. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you. We go now to Mr. Dana Rohrabacher of California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and again I appreciate your leadership on these issues that are of vital importance to the security of our country and the peace of the world.

Number one, obviously, we need to move forward as quickly as possible. It's long overdue of helping our friends, the Kurds, who are bearing the brunt of this whole battle against radical Islam in that part of the world at this time. Certainly, we need to combat terrorists use of the social media, and certainly our friends in Taiwan, if they have the money and they want to buy our frigging frigates, we should be able to make sure we provide it for them. And, of course, supporting press freedom in Latin America is vitally important because you have forces at play that can be combated with an informational combat rather than physical combat. And we should be part of that competition.

But let me note to this condemnation of toxic chemicals by the Syrian regime. There's no doubt the Syrian regime is a murderous regime, it's a brutal regime. They're tyrannical, they're corrupt, blah, blah, blah. The Assad regime is the last Baathist regime of the region, but let us be honest about what's going on here. There is an uprising going on in Syria.

I will tell you, I don't know any of the regimes in that part of the world that would not be as murderous and as brutal in suppressing, they might not use chemical weapons, but they will kill as many civilians as they need to maintain their power. In that part of the world, an uprising against a regime is the equivalent of World War II to them. They know if they lose, they lose everything.

Now, I'm not excusing the use of chemical weapons or the killing of civilians, but remember collateral damage is what we're talking about here. And we, ourselves, understand a certain level of collateral damage when you are at war. The Assad regime, which is a

tyrannical regime like our other allies in that region, know that if they lose an uprising they will be killed. And yes, we hope that collateral damage in our own troops is kept to a minimum, but we also know that during World War II when we were threatened, we carpet bombed the cities of Germany and Japan. We incinerated about tens of thousands of civilians in order to end that war, and we did that. So, number two, I would hope that we understand that we're not going to be hypocritical here by claiming that Assad is so bad as compared to everybody else. He's not. He's tyrannical, he's horrible, but he is no different in terms of the brutality that he would rain upon his people as any other regime that is allied with us in that region.

And, finally, let me just note that I disagree with my good friend, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen on the point that Assad is causing all of these people to flee. It's not Assad that's causing it, it's ISIL. You have a new force moving across that part of the world, and without them, and I believe even without Assad in there, that force in that part of the world would be creating this refugee flow from Lybia, from Africa, and from that part of the world. So, I would have to say that—and one last note on this condemnation of toxic chemicals. It also says we should be open to the idea of a no-fly zone. What you're saying there is yes, we should be open to the idea that American airplanes will shoot down Russian airplanes, Russian military aircraft. I think that we need to do a lot of thinking before we approve anything like that; although, the actual resolution just says we should be looking at alternatives, including that. But do we really want to send American airplanes there to do combat with Russian military aircraft in order to bring Assad down, in order to create a more benevolent regime, which may end up being immediately overthrown like what happened with Qaddafi by racial Islamic forces. This is a very complex area, and it's a complex fight. Let's make sure that we're being honest with ourselves in our analysis of what's going on.

And thank you very much. I will be voting with you, Mr. Chairman, if these are en bloc, but I stated my objections. And I certainly support everything in all the rest of the amendments.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Rohrabacher. Now we go to Mr. Albio Sires of New Jersey.

Mr. SIRES. Thank you, Chairman Royce, Ranking Member Engel, and the staff for their support of promoting democratic values around the world, and their efforts to markup this bill.

I want to thank my good friend, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, for serving as the Republican lead on this legislation. And my colleague, Chairman Jeff Duncan, for his leadership on this issue.

Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of any democratic nation. It is the number one tool to hold people and governments accountable for their actions. In recent years, many organizations dedicated to freedom of speech and advancing civil societies have been trying to bring attention to the deterioration of press freedom in parts of the Western Hemisphere, specially Latin American and the Caribbean.

Cuba has consistently been characterized as having one of the most repressive media environments in the world with the Castro regime controlling all aspects of the print and electronic media.

Venezuela and Ecuador have harassed and fined the media, shut down their operations, and even physically attacked journalists who are trying to expose the state-sponsored crackdown against peaceful political dissenters.

In other countries, such as Mexico and Honduras, an increase in drug-related violence and worsening security situations are creating a culture of impunity, allowing violence against journalists and press institutions to go unpunished. As a child in Cuba, I witnessed the deterioration of Democracy as the Castro regime took over the island and systematically destroyed all aspects of freedom of speech and expression.

There is a strong connection between a country's democratic values and the freedom afforded to their press. Working to preserve freedom of speech and pushing back against those who seek to quiet their dissenters should be a top priority when engaging our neighbors in the region. That is why I introduced H.R. 536, a resolution condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech.

This resolution condemns these violations, and urges countries in the region to implement the recommendations of member states made by the Organization of American States Office of Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, and urges our administration to assist the media in closed societies to promote free press.

I thank the committee for their time, and I'd urge my colleagues to support H.R. 536.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Sires. We now go to Mr. Chabot.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. I support all the resolutions. I'll just comment on two of them.

One, I certainly support the—with respect to Kurdistan, I think it's embarrassing how long it's taken the administration basically to arm those people that have been willing to stand up to these murderous miscreants of ISIS. And it reminds me a bit of Ukraine where we've been embarrassingly delayed in helping those people who need help in standing up to Putin's bullies over there.

And relative to Mr. Sherman's frigging frigates bill, I totally support him there. I was one of the founding Members of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, and it's ridiculous how long it's taken to get this to happen. And following pretty closely what's going on in Taiwan, there's a lot of speculation there that the most recent delay has been related to the administration's not wanting to offend or upset President Xi of China who the Obama administration has believed that they need the support, and the assistance, and the cooperation, and their global warming/climate change conference in Paris. And, of course, they were very quick to announce the cooperation that we have with China, everything down the road, nothing up front. You know, we're supposed to do this stuff up front, which is going to affect our economy and if passed, which it won't, but if it did pass, we'd kill an awful lot of jobs here in the United States. But they push this stuff, they work with Xi. It looks like we're cooperating, but everything China does is way out in the future. Everything we do would be now. But a lot of speculation in Taiwan that that's what the most recent delay on this frigates is,

they didn't want to upset President Xi. But I commend Mr. Sherman for pushing this, and will support all these measures. I yield back.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much. Mr. Connolly is recognized.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I support all five bills in front of us today, and commend both the chairman and ranking member and their respective staffs for bringing bipartisan legislation before us.

Two I'd like to just highlight briefly. One is H.R. 1654, authorizing the direct provision of defense articles to the Kurds, to the Kurdistan Regional Government. We need to do this. The only thing succeeding on the ground in that region that we've invested in is the Peshmerga. They're willing to fight, and they've got successes. And we ought to be supportive of them as robustly as we possibly can, and that's why this bill, I think, is so important.

Whatever reluctance there's been in the past well, we've got to go through the central government of Baghdad and so forth, we can't afford to do that. They're effective, they're willing to fight, they're willing to take the risk, all they need is our assistance. And I think we need to provide it, and I'm happy to support this bill.

And the second bill I want to highlight, as the Co-Chair of the Taiwan Caucus, I agree with the sentiments that have been expressed with respect to H.R. 4154, the Taiwan Naval Support Act. This is about us keeping our commitment pursuant to the Taiwan Relations Act. It's not about tweaking somebody else, or trying to provoke. It's about keeping our commitment so that Taiwan has the ability to defend itself. And this is a modest effort, and it's been going on, as Mr. Chabot said, way too long. And I might add, the reluctance to provoke Beijing is a bipartisan reluctance in terms of White Houses, and it's time we move on.

Beijing needs to understand we're going to keep our commitment with respect to the Taiwan Relations Act. This is not aimed at them, it's not to provoke them, but we have a commitment, a statutory commitment, and we want to keep it. We're only talking about four frigates of the Oliver Hazard Perry Class, hardly something that's a threat to somebody else in the region, but definitely designed to help a country or a nation defend itself. And that's all we're doing here. I support the legislation as long overdue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Connolly. Judge Ted Poe of Texas.

Mr. POE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank the chair, ranking member, and especially my friend, Mr. Connolly from Virginia for helping get the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act to the House floor last night, passed the House by voice vote unanimously, and hopefully the Senate will take this bill up. As the chair knows, this bill passed the House 4 years ago in December, and the Senate blocked it, so maybe we can get some accountability with the State Department and Foreign Affairs.

I want to echo also what Mr. Connolly mentioned about the Kurds. It's ironic that when ISIS first started their battle with the Iraqi troops, the Iraqi troops cut and ran, left American equipment on the battlefield. ISIS took that equipment, including tanks and

trucks, and every type of weapon you can come up with. It seems only fair that we get the same kind of equipment to the Kurds who are now fighting ISIS with the equipment that we sent the Kurds who left it there on the battlefield. So, I think that we—I support this bill with helping out the Kurds.

The bill I really want to talk most about is the bill that my friend, Mr. Sherman, and I are cosponsoring, and that's the social media bill, that terrorist organizations have used social media, and it's exploded over the last few years. A recent Brookings Institution found ISIS has 40,000 Twitter accounts, and they use these accounts for not only propaganda, not only to recruit, but also to raise money for their terrorist organizations.

Al-Qaeda affiliate Al Shabab live-tweeted its attack on a Kenyan mall that killed 72 people. The recipes for bombs used in the Boston marathon attacks were published in al-Qaeda's Inspire Magazine online. Al-Qaeda branch in Yemen known as AQAP held a press conference on Twitter allowing users to submit questions that were answered by a terror group and posted back on Twitter the following week.

In October, ISIS issued a new instruction manual on how terrorists can use social media, so they can pull up the instruction manual on social media and read about how to use social media to further their activities. There are between 27 and 31,000 foreign fighters in foreign countries, 86 countries. That's double the number from last year.

The FBI says that instead of terrorists now having to go to Syria or Iraq to train, all they have to do is log on and get online training. That is quite disturbing.

Since March 2014, 71 people in the United States have been charged with crimes related to ISIS. They don't fit any ethnic profile. There's a trio of teenagers, siblings from Chicago, former Air Force mechanic in his late 40s from New Jersey, and a mother of two from Philadelphia. But nearly all of them had spent hours online voicing their support for ISIS, and later were arrested on their online posts after that drew the attention to the FBI.

The Federal Government does not have a strategy to counter this problem of online radicalization. In 2011, the administration acknowledged terrorists' use of social media and promised a strategy to prevent online radicalization. We don't have that strategy. This legislation says let's come up with a strategy to prevent terrorist groups, foreign terrorist groups using social media.

Facebook and YouTube have done a pretty good job of bringing down these sites. Twitter has not. This bill, H.R. 3654 to combat terrorists use of social media, requires the President to come up with a strategy. A suggested protocol would be the same strategy that social media companies use to bring down child pornography sites. They have a strategy, a protocol that works to bring down these sites. It would seem to me they could use the same strategy, the same protocol to bring down these terrorist sites.

And just to be clear, a foreign terrorist organization does not have a constitutional right under the First Amendment. That's already been ruled in *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* in 2010. If it's a foreign terrorist organization, the constitution doesn't protect those foreign terrorist organizations from using social media to

radicalize, to preach their propaganda, and to raise money, and I support this bill.

Thanks again, Mr. Sherman, and I support all the other bills, as well. I yield back, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Poe. Lois Frankel of Florida.

Ms. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I thank the ranking member, and all my colleagues who brought these good bills and resolutions, which I will support. And I want to add my voice to my colleagues who have pretty much said what I feel about Bashar al-Assad, which he is a scourge to humanity. And to me, it doesn't matter whether there's anyone better or worse than him. He needs to be condemned for what he's going.

But moving on, I wanted to make a comment. You know, yesterday, one of the Presidential candidates whose name I will not promote, he called on our country as a way of combating terrorism to ban Muslims from entering the country. Not only were his remarks unfair, and prejudicial, and contrary to our American values and way of life, those remarks were dangerous, they were inflammatory, they serve to further pit the United States against the Muslim world at a time when we need allies in that arena who will fight with us and join with us to destroy the terrorists that would take away our lives and our way of life.

And that's why I am very proud to be here today, Mr. Chair, with my colleagues as we are showing our constituents and the American people that there are sensible efforts that we can make to combat terrorism, while maintaining our respect, our dignity, and our American values. And I'm honored to support these efforts today, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Lois Frankel. We now go to Mr. Jeff Duncan of South Carolina.

Mr. DUNCAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to align myself with the comments of Judge Poe from Texas on H.R. 1654, arming the Kurds. And I would encourage anyone that hasn't traveled to Erbil to meet with the Kurdish leaders and understand these noble people, I would encourage that because we need to arm them. They've been a strong ally in the region.

I also want to align myself with the comments that Judge Poe made on 3654 about the use of social media. And I'm glad we're taking that bill up in this particular committee hearing Markup.

As cosponsor of H.R. 536 with Congressman Sires, I want to raise my voice in support of it, and thank the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee for his efforts and passion on the issue of press freedoms in the Americas. The ability to speak openly without censure or fear of reprisal is a hallmark of free peoples everywhere, and the freedom of the press is critical to sustaining Democracy and the Rule of Law.

In July, the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee held a hearing to examine the threats to press freedoms in the Americas, and we heard testimony of severe government repression and outright targeting of journalists by Cuba, Venezuela, and Ecuador, and the terrible impact to journalists from organized crime, corruption, and impunity in other countries in the region.

According to Reporters Without Borders, 2015 World Press Freedom Index, only three countries in the Western Hemisphere man-

aged to score in the top 20 of 180 countries documented, and those were Canada, Jamaica, and Costa Rica. Notoriously, Mexico and Cuba were among the worst offenders in the Western Hemisphere listed in that report. In addition to these countries, Ecuador, Honduras, and Peru all received the worst press freedom scores in over a decade from Freedom House. So, all in all, it's important for the United States to promote freedom of the press, and this resolution is an important step in doing that. I fully support it as Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. And with that, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. We'll go now to Joaquin Castro of Texas.

Mr. CASTRO. Thank you, Chairman. And I, too, echo the sentiments that these are five very good pieces of legislation before us today, and I'd like to quickly address three of them.

The first one is H.R. 1654 with respect to arming the Kurds. What I appreciate most about this piece of legislation is that it represents the United States Congress taking an active role in shaping our policy in the war on terror, and the war against ISIS. For too long, I think this Congress has been both a spectator and a Monday morning quarterback when it comes to dealing with the war on terror. We have to take action. We have to eventually pass another AUMF for the President. So thank you, Chairman, for bringing this piece of legislation forward.

The second one is that by Chairman Poe, H.R. 3654 to combat terrorist use of social media. We understand that there are many components to the war on terror, but to really win this war, we have to stop these folks from communicating their message and inspiring people to commit heinous acts in the United States and other parts of the world. It's important that our social media companies partner with us in that endeavor. So, thank you to Chairman Poe for that.

And then, finally, H. Res. 536, supporting press freedom in Latin America. Thank you to my colleague, Albio Sires, for that. When you think about what's going on in places like Cuba, 31 journalists detained in 2014 in Venezuela with the rough few years that they've had under President Maduro, and also in Mexico where dozens of journalists have been hurt, injured, or killed not only sometimes by the government there, or governments, whether it's the Federal Government or the local governments, but also by those involved in the drug trade. So, this is not just an issue of protecting the press from state action or government action, but also asking the governments in these countries to make sure that journalists are being protected from private actors, from criminals. So, Albio, thank you for this piece of legislation. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Ted Yoho of Florida.

Mr. YOH. Thank you, Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel. I have an amendment in the nature of a substitute that updates the numbers of the Syrian death and refugees, as well as a few other points to H. Resolution 346.

This resolution is extremely important as it condemns the Assad regime for the atrocities against the Syrian people despite the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2209, including the use of barrel bombs which are made up of liquid chlorine as a weapon placed in 55-gallon drums filled with scrap metal,

TNT, and dropped in residential neighborhoods at night on their own people.

The civil war in Syria has been raging for over 4 years resulting in over 250,000 deaths, six and a half million internally displaced refugees, at least 4 million people have fled that country. This has led to the largest displacement of people since World War II, creating a refugee crisis not just seen in Syria and the Middle East, but in the world. This has facilitated ISIS' growing strength in terrorist activity.

As recently as last June, Samantha Power testified before this committee that there are serious and alarming reports that Assad has been turning chlorine into a chemical weapon via the barrel bombs. This resolution condemns this abhorrent behavior, and urges the United States and her allies and partners to seek a comprehensive strategy in Syria.

If we are serious about bringing this civil war to an end, I urge unanimous support for this large bipartisan- supported resolution, for a period of 4 years is way too long for there not to be a plan to stop this atrocity. And thanks again to Chairman Royce, Ranking Member Engel, Eddie Acevedo, Tom Sheehy, and on the Foreign Affairs Committee, their staff and our team, Jimmy Walsh, and all who have helped with this resolution. And I yield back. Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Yoho. Do any other members seek recognition?

Hearing no further requests, the question occurs on the items considered en bloc. All those in favor say aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Chairman ROYCE. All those opposed, no.

[No response.]

Chairman ROYCE. In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it and the measure is considered en bloc are agreed to. And without objection, the measures considered en bloc are ordered favorably reported as amended, and staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes.

And also without objection, the chair is authorized to seek House consideration of these measures under suspension of the rules. And that concludes our business for today.

I want to thank Ranking Member Engel and all our committee members for their contributions, and all of their assistance with today's Markup. The committee is—oh, and Mr. Engel is right to remind everyone that at 5 o'clock this evening, the committee will readjourn here for the holiday. Okay? All right. Until then, we stand adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:39 a.m., the committee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Edward R. Royce (R-CA), Chairman

December 9, 2015

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting 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 <http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov>):

DATE: Wednesday, December 9, 2015

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

MARKUP OF: H.R. 1654, To authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3654, Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act of 2015;

H.R. 4154, Taiwan Naval Support Act;

H. Res. 346, Condemning the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic; and

H. Res. 536, Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech.

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 202/225-5121 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 12/09/2015 Room 2172

Starting Time 10:40 Ending Time 11:40

Recesses 0 (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____)

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Edward R. Royce, Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session ☒

Executive (closed) Session ☐

Televised ☒

Electronically Recorded (taped) ☒

Stenographic Record ☒

BILLS FOR MARKUP: *(Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)*

See attached.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

See attached.

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

none

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: *(Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)*

See markup summary.


RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): *(Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)*

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
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TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or

TIME ADJOURNED 11:40


Doug Anderson, General Counsel

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FULL COMMITTEE MARKUP

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
X	Edward R. Royce, CA
X	Christopher H. Smith, NJ
X	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL
X	Dana Rohrabacher, CA
X	Steve Chabot, OH
	Joe Wilson, SC
	Michael T. McCaul, TX
X	Ted Poe, TX
X	Matt Salmon, AZ
	Darrell Issa, CA
X	Tom Marino, PA
X	Jeff Duncan, SC
X	Mo Brooks, AL
	Paul Cook, CA
X	Randy Weber, TX
X	Scott Perry, PA
X	Ron DeSantis, FL
X	Mark Meadows, NC
X	Ted Yoho, FL
	Curt Clawson, FL
X	Scott DesJarlais, TN
X	Reid Ribble, WI
	Dave Trott, MI
	Lee Zeldin, NY
	Dan Donovan, NY

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
X	Eliot L. Engel, NY
X	Brad Sherman, CA
	Gregory W. Meeks, NY
X	Albio Sires, NJ
X	Gerald E. Connolly, VA
	Theodore E. Deutch, FL
	Brian Higgins, NY
	Karen Bass, CA
X	William Keating, MA
	David Cicilline, RI
X	Alan Grayson, FL
X	Ami Bera, CA
X	Alan S. Lowenthal, CA
X	Grace Meng, NY
X	Lois Frankel, FL
X	Tulsi Gabbard, HI
X	Joaquin Castro, TX
X	Robin Kelly, IL
	Brendan Boyle, PA

12/9/15 Foreign Affairs Committee Markup Summary

The Chair obtained unanimous consent to consider the following measures and amendments (previously provided to Members of the Committee) *en bloc*:

- 1) H.R. 1654 (Royce), To authorize the direct provision of defense articles, defense services, and related training to the Kurdistan Regional Government, and for other purposes;
 - a. Royce 87, an amendment in the nature of a substitute;
- 2) H.R. 3654 (Poe), Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act of 2015;
 - a. Poe 81, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 3654;
 - i. Issa 56, an amendment to Poe 81;
- 3) H.R. 4154 (Sherman), Taiwan Naval Support Act;
- 4) H. Res. 346 (Yoho), Condemning the use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic;
 - a. Yoho 72, an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and
- 5) H. Res. 536 (Sires), Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech;
 - a. Sires 13, an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

The items considered *en bloc* were agreed to by voice vote, and were ordered favorably reported, as amended, by unanimous consent.

By unanimous consent, the Chair was authorized to seek House consideration of the measures under suspension of the rules.

The Committee adjourned.

