

VARIOUS MEASURES

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

**H.R. 1918, H.R. 2061, H.R. 2408, H. Res. 128,
H. Res. 259, H. Res. 311, H. Res. 357, H. Res. 359,
and H. Res. 449**

JULY 27, 2017

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VARIOUS MEASURES

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017

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

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:08 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 nine bipartisan measures and, without objection, all members may have 5 days to submit statements or extraneous materials on today's business.

As members were notified yesterday, we intend to consider today's measures en bloc and so, without objection, the following items previously provided to members and also in your packets will be considered en bloc and are considered as read.

We have H.R. 1918, this is the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act with the Ros-Lehtinen Amendment 33 in the nature of a substitute; we have H.R. 2061, the North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act, with Yoho Amendment 60 in the nature of a substitute and Yoho Amendment 58 to Amendment 60; we have H.R. 2408, Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings; we have House Resolution 128, Supporting respect for human rights in Ethiopia, with the Smith Amendment 48 in the nature of a substitute and Smith Amendment 49 to Smith Amendment 48; we have House Resolution 259, Condemning the crisis in Venezuela with the DeSantis amendment in the nature of a substitute to House Resolution 259; House Resolution 311, Recognizing the work of ASEAN nations with the Castro amendment in the nature of a substitute to the House resolution; we have House Resolution 357, Reaffirming the U.S.-Canada partnership with Duncan Amendment 29; House Resolution 359, Urging the EU to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization with Deutch Amendment 27; and, lastly, House Resolution 449, Urging peaceful and transparent elections in Kenya.

[The information referred to follows:]

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1918

To oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. SIEES, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. BRENDAN P. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCCALL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Nicaraguan Invest-
3 ment Conditionality Act (NICA) of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) In 2006, Nicaragua, under President
7 Enrique Bolaños, entered into a \$175,000,000, 5-
8 year compact with the Millennium Challenge Cor-
9 poration (MCC).

10 (2) After the 2008 municipal elections, the
11 MCC stated that there was a pattern of decline in
12 political rights and civil liberties in Nicaragua.

13 (3) In 2009, the MCC terminated the compact
14 and reduced the amount of MCC funds available to
15 Nicaragua by \$61,500,000, which led to the compact
16 ending in 2011.

17 (4) According to Nicaraguan law, the National
18 Assembly is the only institution allowed to change
19 the constitution but in 2009, Daniel Ortega cir-
20 cumvented the legislature and went to the Supreme
21 Court, which he controls, to rule in his favor that
22 Presidential term limits were inapplicable.

23 (5) The House Committee on Foreign Affairs
24 convened a congressional hearing on December 1,
25 2011, entitled “Democracy Held Hostage in Nica-
26 ragua: Part 1” where former United States Amba-

1 sador to Nicaragua Robert Callahan testified,
2 “First, that Daniel Ortega’s candidacy was illegal,
3 illegitimate, and unconstitutional; second, that the
4 period leading to the elections and the elections
5 themselves were marred by serious fraud; third, that
6 Daniel Ortega and his Sandinista party have system-
7 atically undermined the country’s fragile govern-
8 mental institutions.”.

9 (6) From fiscal year 2012 until present, the
10 Department of State found that Nicaragua did not
11 meet international standards of fiscal transparency.

12 (7) On January 25, 2012, a press statement
13 from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said: “As
14 noted by international observers and Nicaraguan
15 civil society groups, Nicaragua’s recent elections
16 were not conducted in a transparent and impartial
17 manner, and the entire electoral process was marred
18 by significant irregularities. The elections marked a
19 setback to democracy in Nicaragua and undermined
20 the ability of Nicaraguans to hold their government
21 accountable.”.

22 (8) According to the Department of State’s
23 2015 Fiscal Transparency Report: “Nicaragua’s fis-
24 cal transparency would be improved by including all
25 off-budget revenue and expenditure in the budget,

1 auditing state-owned enterprises, and conducting a
2 full audit of the government's annual financial state-
3 ments and making audit reports publicly available
4 within a reasonable period of time.”.

5 (9) According to the Department of State's
6 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
7 2015: “In 2011 the Supreme Electoral Council
8 (CSE) announced the re-election of President Daniel
9 Ortega Saavedra of the Sandinista National Libera-
10 tion Front (FSLN) in elections that international
11 and domestic observers characterized as seriously
12 flawed. International and domestic organizations
13 raised concerns regarding the constitutional legit-
14 imacy of Ortega's re-election. The 2011 elections
15 also provided the ruling party with a supermajority
16 in the National Assembly, allowing for changes in
17 the constitution, including extending the reach of ex-
18 ecutive branch power and the elimination of restric-
19 tions on re-election for executive branch officials and
20 mayors. Observers noted serious flaws during the
21 2012 municipal elections and March 2014 regional
22 elections.”.

23 (10) According to the Department of State's
24 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
25 2015 in Nicaragua: “The principal human rights

1 abuses were restrictions on citizens' right to vote;
2 obstacles to freedom of speech and press, including
3 government intimidation and harassment of journal-
4 ists and independent media, as well as increased re-
5 striction of access to public information, including
6 national statistics from public offices; and increased
7 government harassment and intimidation of non-
8 governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society
9 organizations.”.

10 (11) The same 2015 report stated: “Additional
11 significant human rights abuses included consider-
12 ably biased policies to promote single-party domi-
13 nance; arbitrary police arrest and detention of sus-
14 pects, including abuse during detention; harsh and
15 life-threatening prison conditions with arbitrary and
16 lengthy pretrial detention; discrimination against
17 ethnic minorities and indigenous persons and com-
18 munities.”.

19 (12) In February 2016, the Ortega regime de-
20 tained and expelled Freedom House’s Latin America
21 Director, Dr. Carlos Ponce, from Nicaragua.

22 (13) On June 3, 2016, the Nicaraguan Su-
23 preme Court—which is controlled by Nicaragua’s
24 leader, Daniel Ortega—instructed the Supreme Elec-
25 toral Council not to swear in Nicaraguan opposition

1 members to the departmental and regional electoral
2 councils.

3 (14) On June 5, 2016, regarding international
4 observers for the 2016 Presidential elections, Presi-
5 dent Ortega stated: “Here, the observation ends. Go
6 observe other countries . . . There will be no obser-
7 vation, neither from the European Union, nor the
8 OAS . . .”.

9 (15) On June 7, 2016, the Department of
10 State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and
11 Labor posted on social media: “Disappointed govern-
12 ment of Nicaragua said it will deny electoral observ-
13 ers requested by Nicaraguan citizens, church, and
14 private sector . . . We continue to encourage the
15 government of Nicaragua to allow electoral observers
16 as requested by Nicaraguans.”.

17 (16) On June 14, 2016, President Ortega ex-
18 pelled three United States Government officials (two
19 officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection
20 and one professor from the National Defense Uni-
21 versity) from Nicaragua.

22 (17) On June 29, 2016, the Department of
23 State issued a Nicaragua Travel Alert which stated:
24 “The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens about
25 increased government scrutiny of foreigners’ activi-

1 ties, new requirements for volunteer groups, and the
2 potential for demonstrations during the upcoming
3 election season in Nicaragua . . . Nicaraguan au-
4 thorities have denied entry to, detained, questioned,
5 or expelled foreigners, including United States Gov-
6 ernment officials, academics, NGO workers, and
7 journalists, for discussions, written reports or arti-
8 cles, photographs, and/or videos related to these top-
9 ics. Authorities may monitor and question private
10 United States citizens concerning their activities, in-
11 cluding contact with Nicaraguan citizens.”.

12 (18) On August 1, 2016, the Department of
13 State issued a press release to express grave concern
14 over the Nicaraguan government limiting democratic
15 space leading up to the elections in November and
16 stated that “[o]n June 8, the Nicaraguan Supreme
17 Court stripped the opposition Independent Liberal
18 Party (PLI) from its long recognized leader. The
19 Supreme Court took similar action on June 17 when
20 it invalidated the leadership of the Citizen Action
21 Party, the only remaining opposition party with the
22 legal standing to present a presidential candidate.
23 Most recently, on July 29, the Supreme Electoral
24 Council removed 28 PLI national assembly members

1 (16 seated and 12 alternates) from their popularly-
2 elected positions.”.

3 (19) On November 7, 2016, the Department of
4 State issued a press release stating: “The United
5 States is deeply concerned by the flawed presidential
6 and legislative electoral process in Nicaragua, which
7 precluded the possibility of a free and fair election
8 on November 6. In advance of the elections, the Nie-
9 araguan government sidelined opposition candidates
10 for president, limited domestic observation at the
11 polls and access to voting credentials, and took other
12 actions to deny democratic space in the process. The
13 decision by the Nicaraguan government not to invite
14 independent international electoral observers further
15 degraded the legitimacy of the election.”.

16 (20) In November and December of 2016, the
17 Board of Executive Directors of the Inter-American
18 Development Bank postponed consideration of a pol-
19 icy based loan of \$65 million to the Government of
20 Nicaragua due to the efforts of the United States
21 mission that expressed serious concerns of the ab-
22 sence of transparency, systemic corruption, and the
23 lack of free and fair elections in Nicaragua.

24 (21) On February 2017, the European Par-
25 liament issued a resolution on the situation of

1 human rights and democracy in Nicaragua and ex-
2 pressed concern of the “deteriorating human rights
3 situation in Nicaragua and deplores the attacks and
4 acts of harassment to which human rights organiza-
5 tions and their members and independent journalists
6 have been subjected by individuals, political forces
7 and bodies linked to the State”.

8 (22) According to the Department of State’s
9 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
10 2016: “[A]ctions by the ruling Sandinista National
11 Liberation Front (FSLN) party resulted in de facto
12 concentration of power in a single party, with an au-
13 thoritarian executive branch exercising significant
14 control over the legislative, judicial, and electoral
15 functions.”.

16 (23) According to the Department of State’s
17 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
18 2016 in Nicaragua, “The November 6 elections for
19 president, vice president, national assembly mem-
20 bers, and representatives for the Central American
21 parliament did not meet the conditions of being free
22 and fair . . . The November 6 presidential and leg-
23 islative elections were marred by allegations of insti-
24 tutional fraud and the absence of independent oppo-
25 sition political parties. National observers and oppo-

1 sition leaders claimed rates of abstention from 60 to
2 70 percent.”.

3 (24) According to the Department of State’s
4 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
5 2016: “Companies reported that bribery of public of-
6 ficials, unlawful seizures, and arbitrary assessments
7 by customs and tax authorities were common . . .
8 The courts remained particularly susceptible to
9 bribes, manipulation, and other forms of corruption,
10 especially by the FSLN, giving the sense that the
11 FSLN heavily influenced CSJ and lower-level court
12 actions.”.

13 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

14 It is the policy of the United States to support—

15 (1) the rule of law and an independent judiciary
16 and electoral council in Nicaragua;

17 (2) independent pro-democracy organizations in
18 Nicaragua;

19 (3) free, fair, and transparent elections under
20 international and domestic observers in Nicaragua;
21 and

22 (4) anti-corruption and transparency efforts in
23 Nicaragua.

1 **SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall instruct the
3 United States Executive Director at each international fi-
4 nancial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of
5 the United States to oppose any loan for the benefit of
6 the Government of Nicaragua, other than to address basic
7 human needs or promote democracy, unless the Secretary
8 of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congres-
9 sional committees that the Government of Nicaragua is
10 taking effective steps to—

11 (1) hold free, fair, and transparent elections
12 overseen by credible domestic and international elec-
13 toral observers;

14 (2) promote democracy, as well as an inde-
15 pendent judicial system and electoral council;

16 (3) strengthen the rule of law;

17 (4) respect the right to freedom of association
18 and expression;

19 (5) combat corruption, including investigating
20 and prosecuting government officials that are
21 credibly alleged to be corrupt; and

22 (6) protect the right of political opposition par-
23 ties, journalists, trade unionists, human rights de-
24 fenders, and other civil society activists to operate
25 without interference.

1 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall
2 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a
3 written report assessing—

4 (1) the effectiveness of the international finan-
5 cial institutions in enforcing applicable program
6 safeguards in Nicaragua; and

7 (2) the effects of the matters described in sec-
8 tion 2 on long-term prospects for positive develop-
9 ment outcomes in Nicaragua.

10 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
12 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
13 mittees” means—

14 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
15 Committee on Appropriations, and the Com-
16 mittee on Financial Services of the House of
17 Representatives; and

18 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
19 the Committee on Appropriations, and the
20 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
21 Affairs of the Senate.

22 (2) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-
23 TION.—The term “international financial institu-
24 tion” means the International Monetary Fund,
25 International Bank for Reconstruction and Develop-

1 ment, European Bank for Reconstruction and Devel-
2 opment, International Development Association,
3 International Finance Corporation, Multilateral In-
4 vestment Guarantee Agency, African Development
5 Bank, African Development Fund, Asian Develop-
6 ment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank,
7 Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in
8 the Middle East and North Africa, and Inter-Amer-
9 ican Investment Corporation.

10 (d) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
11 the day after the earlier of—

12 (1) the date on which the Secretary of State
13 certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional
14 committees that the requirements of subsection (a)
15 are met; or

16 (2) 5 years after the date of the enactment of
17 this Act.

18 (e) WAIVER.—The President may waive this section
19 if the President determines that such a waiver is in the
20 national interest of the United States.

21 **SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.**

22 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that, according to the
23 Organization of American States (OAS) report on the Nie-
24 araguan 2011 Presidential elections, Nicaragua: Final Re-
25 port, General Elections, OAS (2011), the OAS made the

1 following recommendations to the Government of Nica-
2 ragua:

3 (1) "Prepare alternative procedures for updat-
4 ing the electoral roll when a registered voter dies."

5 (2) "Publish the electoral roll so that new addi-
6 tions, changes of address and exclusions can be
7 checked."

8 (3) "Reform the mechanism for accreditation of
9 poll watchers using a formula that ensures that the
10 political parties will have greater autonomy to ac-
11 credit their respective poll watchers."

12 (4) "Institute regulations to ensure that party
13 poll watchers are involved in all areas of the elec-
14 toral structure, including the departmental, regional
15 and municipal electoral councils and polling stations.
16 Rules should be crafted to spell out their authorities
17 and functions and the means by which they can ex-
18 ercise their authority and perform their functions."

19 (5) "Redesign the CSE administrative structure
20 at the central and field levels, while standardizing
21 technical and operational procedures, including the
22 design of control mechanisms from the time registra-
23 tion to the delivery of the document to the citizens;
24 the process of issuing identity cards should be timed

1 to the calendar and, to avoid congestion within the
2 process, be evenly spaced.”.

3 (b) **ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION.**—The Presi-
4 dent shall direct the United States Permanent Represent-
5 ative to the OAS to use the voice, vote, and influence of
6 the United States at the OAS to strongly advocate for an
7 Electoral Observation Mission to be sent to Nicaragua in
8 2017.

9 **SEC. 6. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

10 The Department of State and the United States
11 Agency for International Development should prioritize
12 foreign assistance to the people of Nicaragua to assist civil
13 society in democracy and governance programs, including
14 human rights documentation.

15 **SEC. 7. REPORT ON CORRUPTION IN NICARAGUA.**

16 (a) **REPORT REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
18 of State, in consultation with the intelligence community
19 (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act
20 of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)), shall submit to Congress
21 a report on the involvement of senior Nicaraguan govern-
22 ment officials, including members of the Supreme Elec-
23 toral Council, the National Assembly, and the judicial sys-
24 tem, in acts of public corruption or human rights viola-
25 tions in Nicaragua.

1 (b) FORM.—The report required in subsection (a)
2 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain
3 a classified annex. The unclassified portion of the report
4 shall be made available to the public.



**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1918
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Nicaraguan Invest-
3 ment Conditionality Act (NICA) of 2017”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The House Committee on Foreign Affairs
7 convened a congressional hearing on December 1,
8 2011, entitled “Democracy Held Hostage in Nica-
9 ragua: Part 1” where former United States Amba-
10 sador to Nicaragua Robert Callahan testified,
11 “First, that Daniel Ortega’s candidacy was illegal,
12 illegitimate, and unconstitutional; second, that the
13 period leading to the elections and the elections
14 themselves were marred by serious fraud; third, that
15 Daniel Ortega and his Sandinista party have system-
16 atically undermined the country’s fragile govern-
17 mental institutions.”.

1 (2) According to the Organization of American
2 States (OAS) report on the Nicaraguan 2011 Presi-
3 dential elections, the OAS recommended that the
4 Government of Nicaragua take a number of steps to
5 improve its electoral systems, including accrediting
6 poll watchers to ensure political parties and civil so-
7 ciety are represented to observe elections, and rede-
8 signing the structure of the Nicaraguan electoral
9 council to allow proper registration of the electorate.

10 (3) On January 25, 2012, a press statement
11 from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said: “As
12 noted by international observers and Nicaraguan
13 civil society groups, Nicaragua’s recent elections
14 were not conducted in a transparent and impartial
15 manner, and the entire electoral process was marred
16 by significant irregularities. The elections marked a
17 setback to democracy in Nicaragua and undermined
18 the ability of Nicaraguans to hold their government
19 accountable.”.

20 (4) According to the Department of State’s
21 2015 Fiscal Transparency Report: “Nicaragua’s fis-
22 cal transparency would be improved by including all
23 off-budget revenue and expenditure in the budget,
24 auditing state-owned enterprises, and conducting a
25 full audit of the government’s annual financial state-

1 ments and making audit reports publicly available
2 within a reasonable period of time.”.

3 (5) According to the Department of State’s
4 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
5 2015: “In 2011 the Supreme Electoral Council
6 (CSE) announced the re-election of President Daniel
7 Ortega Saavedra of the Sandinista National Libera-
8 tion Front (FSLN) in elections that international
9 and domestic observers characterized as seriously
10 flawed. International and domestic organizations
11 raised concerns regarding the constitutional legit-
12 imacy of Ortega’s re-election. The 2011 elections
13 also provided the ruling party with a supermajority
14 in the National Assembly, allowing for changes in
15 the constitution, including extending the reach of ex-
16 ecutive branch power and the elimination of restric-
17 tions on re-election for executive branch officials and
18 mayors. Observers noted serious flaws during the
19 2012 municipal elections and March 2014 regional
20 elections.”.

21 (6) According to the Department of State’s
22 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
23 2015 in Nicaragua: “The principal human rights
24 abuses were restrictions on citizens’ right to vote;
25 obstacles to freedom of speech and press, including

1 government intimidation and harassment of journal-
2 ists and independent media, as well as increased re-
3 striction of access to public information, including
4 national statistics from public offices; and increased
5 government harassment and intimidation of non-
6 governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society
7 organizations.”.

8 (7) The same 2015 report stated: “Additional
9 significant human rights abuses included consider-
10 ably biased policies to promote single-party domi-
11 nance; arbitrary police arrest and detention of sus-
12 pects, including abuse during detention; harsh and
13 life-threatening prison conditions with arbitrary and
14 lengthy pretrial detention; discrimination against
15 ethnic minorities and indigenous persons and com-
16 munities.”.

17 (8) On June 7, 2016, the Department of
18 State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and
19 Labor posted on social media: “Disappointed govern-
20 ment of Nicaragua said it will deny electoral observ-
21 ers requested by Nicaraguan citizens, church, and
22 private sector . . . We continue to encourage the
23 government of Nicaragua to allow electoral observers
24 as requested by Nicaraguans.”.

1 (9) On June 14, 2016, President Ortega ex-
2 pelled three United States Government officials (two
3 officials from U.S. Customs and Border Protection
4 and one professor from the National Defense Uni-
5 versity) from Nicaragua.

6 (10) On August 1, 2016, the Department of
7 State issued a press release to express grave concern
8 over the Nicaraguan government limiting democratic
9 space leading up to the elections in November and
10 stated that “[o]n June 8, the Nicaraguan Supreme
11 Court stripped the opposition Independent Liberal
12 Party (PLI) from its long recognized leader. The
13 Supreme Court took similar action on June 17 when
14 it invalidated the leadership of the Citizen Action
15 Party, the only remaining opposition party with the
16 legal standing to present a presidential candidate.
17 Most recently, on July 29, the Supreme Electoral
18 Council removed 28 PLI national assembly members
19 (16 seated and 12 alternates) from their popularly-
20 elected positions.”.

21 (11) On November 7, 2016, the Department of
22 State issued a press release stating: “The United
23 States is deeply concerned by the flawed presidential
24 and legislative electoral process in Nicaragua, which
25 precluded the possibility of a free and fair election

1 on November 6. In advance of the elections, the Nie-
2 araguan government sidelined opposition candidates
3 for president, limited domestic observation at the
4 polls and access to voting credentials, and took other
5 actions to deny democratic space in the process. The
6 decision by the Nicaraguan government not to invite
7 independent international electoral observers further
8 degraded the legitimacy of the election.”.

9 (12) In November and December of 2016, the
10 Board of Executive Directors of the Inter-American
11 Development Bank postponed consideration of a pol-
12 icy based loan of \$65 million to the Government of
13 Nicaragua due to the efforts of the United States
14 mission that expressed serious concerns of the ab-
15 sence of transparency, systemic corruption, and the
16 lack of free and fair elections in Nicaragua.

17 (13) According to the Department of State’s
18 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
19 2016: “[A]ctions by the ruling Sandinista National
20 Liberation Front (FSLN) party resulted in de facto
21 concentration of power in a single party, with an au-
22 thoritarian executive branch exercising significant
23 control over the legislative, judicial, and electoral
24 functions.”.

1 (14) According to the Department of State's
2 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
3 2016 in Nicaragua, "The November 6 elections for
4 president, vice president, national assembly mem-
5 bers, and representatives for the Central American
6 parliament did not meet the conditions of being free
7 and fair . . . The November 6 presidential and leg-
8 islative elections were marred by allegations of insti-
9 tutional fraud and the absence of independent oppo-
10 sition political parties. National observers and oppo-
11 sition leaders claimed rates of abstention from 60 to
12 70 percent."

13 (15) According to the Department of State's
14 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for
15 2016: "Companies reported that bribery of public of-
16 ficials, unlawful seizures, and arbitrary assessments
17 by customs and tax authorities were common . . .
18 The courts remained particularly susceptible to
19 bribes, manipulation, and other forms of corruption,
20 especially by the FSLN, giving the sense that the
21 FSLN heavily influenced CSJ and lower-level court
22 actions."

23 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

24 It is the policy of the United States to support—

- 1 (1) the rule of law and an independent judiciary
- 2 and electoral council in Nicaragua;
- 3 (2) independent pro-democracy organizations in
- 4 Nicaragua;
- 5 (3) free, fair, and transparent elections under
- 6 international and domestic observers in Nicaragua;
- 7 and
- 8 (4) anti-corruption and transparency efforts in
- 9 Nicaragua.

10 **SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall instruct the
12 United States Executive Director at each international fi-
13 nancial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of
14 the United States to oppose any loan for the benefit of
15 the Government of Nicaragua, other than to address basic
16 human needs or promote democracy, unless the Secretary
17 of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congres-
18 sional committees that the Government of Nicaragua is
19 taking effective steps to—

- 20 (1) hold free, fair, and transparent elections
- 21 overseen by credible domestic and international elec-
- 22 toral observers;
- 23 (2) promote democracy, as well as an inde-
- 24 pendent judicial system and electoral council;
- 25 (3) strengthen the rule of law;

1 (4) respect the right to freedom of association
2 and expression;

3 (5) combat corruption, including investigating
4 and prosecuting government officials that are
5 credibly alleged to be corrupt; and

6 (6) protect the right of political opposition par-
7 ties, journalists, trade unionists, human rights de-
8 fenders, and other civil society activists to operate
9 without interference.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury
12 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
13 a written report assessing—

14 (1) the effectiveness of the international finan-
15 cial institutions in enforcing applicable program
16 safeguards in Nicaragua; and

17 (2) the effects of the matters described in sec-
18 tion 2 on long-term prospects for positive develop-
19 ment outcomes in Nicaragua.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees” means—

24 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
25 Committee on Appropriations, and the Com-

1 committee on Financial Services of the House of
2 Representatives; and

3 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
4 the Committee on Appropriations, and the
5 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
6 Affairs of the Senate.

7 (2) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-
8 TION.—The term “international financial institu-
9 tion” means the International Monetary Fund,
10 International Bank for Reconstruction and Develop-
11 ment, European Bank for Reconstruction and Develop-
12 ment, International Development Association,
13 International Finance Corporation, Multilateral In-
14 vestment Guarantee Agency, African Development
15 Bank, African Development Fund, Asian Develop-
16 ment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank,
17 Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in
18 the Middle East and North Africa, and Inter-Amer-
19 ican Investment Corporation.

20 (d) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on
21 the day after the earlier of—

22 (1) the date on which the Secretary of State
23 certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional
24 committees that the requirements of subsection (a)
25 are met; or

1 (2) 5 years after the date of the enactment of
2 this Act.

3 (e) **WAIVER.**—The President may waive this section
4 if the President determines that such a waiver is in the
5 national interest of the United States.

6 **SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.**

7 The President shall direct the United States Perma-
8 nent Representative to the OAS to use the voice, vote, and
9 influence of the United States at the OAS to strongly ad-
10 vocate for an Electoral Observation Mission to be sent to
11 Nicaragua in 2017 to observe the possibility of credible
12 elections.

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

14 The Department of State and the United States
15 Agency for International Development should prioritize
16 foreign assistance to the people of Nicaragua to assist civil
17 society in democracy and governance programs, including
18 human rights documentation.

19 **SEC. 7. REPORT ON CORRUPTION IN NICARAGUA.**

20 (a) **REPORT REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
22 of State, in consultation with the intelligence community
23 (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act
24 of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)), shall submit to Congress
25 a report on the involvement of senior Nicaraguan govern-

1 ment officials, including members of the Supreme Elec-
2 toral Council, the National Assembly, and the judicial sys-
3 tem, in acts of public corruption or human rights viola-
4 tions in Nicaragua.

5 (b) FORM.—The report required in subsection (a)
6 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain
7 a classified annex. The unclassified portion of the report
8 shall be made available to the public.



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2061

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. YOHIO, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, 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 “North Korean Human
5 Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of
9 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), the North Korean
10 Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public

1 Law 110–346), and the Ambassador James R.
2 Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North
3 Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012
4 (Public Law 112–172) were the products of broad,
5 bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of
6 human rights, transparency in the delivery of hu-
7 manitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee
8 protection.

9 (2) Fundamental human rights and humani-
10 tarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplor-
11 able, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulner-
12 able, and the congressional findings included in the
13 Acts listed in paragraph (1) remain substantially ac-
14 curate today.

15 (3) The United States, which has the largest
16 international refugee resettlement program in the
17 world, has resettled 212 North Koreans since the en-
18 actment of the North Korean Human Rights Act of
19 2004.

20 (4) In addition to the longstanding commitment
21 of the United States to refugee and human rights
22 advocacy, the United States is home to the largest
23 Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and
24 many people in the Korean-American community
25 have family ties to North Korea.

1 (5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the
2 United States, South Korea, and the United Nations
3 High Commissioner for Refugees, China has forcibly
4 repatriated tens of thousands of North Koreans.

5 (6) Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
6 served 25 years in the House of Representatives, in-
7 cluding as the Chairman and the Ranking Member
8 of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and
9 the Pacific, was a leader in strengthening the rela-
10 tionship between the American and Korean peoples,
11 authored multiple resolutions regarding issues on the
12 Korean Peninsula, was a champion of human rights,
13 and stated, in support of the Ambassador James R.
14 Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North
15 Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012,
16 that “just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman
17 Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of
18 the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant
19 in helping the people of North Korea who struggle
20 daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the
21 North Korean regime”.

22 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

23 It is the sense of Congress that—

24 (1) the United States should continue to seek
25 cooperation from all foreign governments to allow

1 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
2 access to process North Korean refugees overseas
3 for resettlement and to allow United States officials
4 access to process refugees for resettlement in the
5 United States (if that is the destination country of
6 the refugees' choosing);

7 (2) the Secretary of State, through persistent
8 diplomacy by senior officials, including United
9 States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in
10 close cooperation with United States ally South
11 Korea, should make every effort to promote the pro-
12 tection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and

13 (3) because North Koreans fleeing into China
14 face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their
15 forcible repatriation, the United States should urge
16 China to—

17 (A) immediately halt the forcible repatri-
18 ation of North Koreans;

19 (B) allow the United Nations High Com-
20 missioner for Refugees unimpeded access to
21 North Koreans inside China to determine
22 whether such North Koreans require protection
23 as refugees; and

24 (C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951
25 United Nations Convention Relating to the Sta-

1 tus of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to
2 the Status of Refugees, and the Agreement on
3 the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the
4 People's Republic of China to UNHCR Branch
5 Office in the People's Republic of China (signed
6 December 1, 1995).

7 **SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN**
8 **HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004.**

9 (a) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—
10 Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the North Korean
11 Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)) is amend-
12 ed by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

13 (b) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Sec-
14 tion 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004
15 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended by striking “2017” in each
16 place it appears and inserting “2022”.

17 (c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN
18 HUMAN RIGHTS.—Subsection (d) of section 107 of the
19 North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C.
20 7817) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting
21 “2022”.

22 (d) REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
23 tion 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004
24 (22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended in the matter preceding
25 paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

1 (e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH
2 KOREA.—Paragraph (1) of section 203(c) of the North
3 Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c))
4 is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

5 (f) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 305 of the North
6 Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845) is
7 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
8 ing “2017” and inserting “2022”.

9 **SEC. 5. REPORT BY THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOV-**
10 **ERNORS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board
13 of Governors shall submit to the appropriate congressional
14 committees a report that—

15 (1) describes the status of current United
16 States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent
17 to which the Board has achieved the goal of 12-
18 hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea, in ac-
19 cordance with section 103(a) of the North Korean
20 Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a));
21 and

22 (2) includes a strategy to overcome obstacles to
23 such communication with the North Korean people,
24 including through unrestricted, unmonitored, and in-
25 expensive electronic means.

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

4 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
5 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” has the meaning given such term in section 5
7 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22
8 U.S.C. 7803).

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2061
OFFERED BY MR. YOHIO OF FLORIDA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “North Korean Human
3 Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of
7 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), the North Korean
8 Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public
9 Law 110–346), and the Ambassador James R.
10 Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North
11 Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012
12 (Public Law 112–172) were the products of broad,
13 bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of
14 human rights, transparency in the delivery of hu-
15 manitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee
16 protection.

17 (2) Fundamental human rights and humani-
18 tarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplor-

1 able, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulner-
2 able, and the congressional findings included in the
3 Acts listed in paragraph (1) remain substantially ac-
4 curate today.

5 (3) The United States, which has the largest
6 international refugee resettlement program in the
7 world, has resettled 212 North Koreans since the en-
8 actment of the North Korean Human Rights Act of
9 2004.

10 (4) In addition to the longstanding commitment
11 of the United States to refugee and human rights
12 advocacy, the United States is home to the largest
13 Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and
14 many people in the Korean-American community
15 have family ties to North Korea.

16 (5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the
17 United States, South Korea, and the United Nations
18 High Commissioner for Refugees, China has forcibly
19 repatriated tens of thousands of North Koreans.

20 (6) Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
21 served 25 years in the House of Representatives, in-
22 cluding as the Chairman and the Ranking Member
23 of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and
24 the Pacific, was a leader in strengthening the rela-
25 tionship between the American and Korean peoples,

1 authored multiple resolutions regarding issues on the
2 Korean Peninsula, was a champion of human rights,
3 and stated, in support of the Ambassador James R.
4 Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North
5 Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012,
6 that “just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman
7 Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of
8 the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant
9 in helping the people of North Korea who struggle
10 daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the
11 North Korean regime”.

12 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that—

14 (1) the United States should continue to seek
15 cooperation from all foreign governments to allow
16 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
17 access to process North Korean refugees overseas
18 for resettlement and to allow United States officials
19 access to process refugees for resettlement in the
20 United States (if that is the destination country of
21 the refugees’ choosing);

22 (2) the Secretary of State, through persistent
23 diplomacy by senior officials, including United
24 States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in
25 close cooperation with United States ally South

1 Korea, should make every effort to promote the pro-
2 tection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and

3 (3) because North Koreans fleeing into China
4 face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their
5 forcible repatriation, the United States should urge
6 China to—

7 (A) immediately halt the forcible repatri-
8 ation of North Koreans;

9 (B) allow the United Nations High Com-
10 missioner for Refugees unimpeded access to
11 North Koreans inside China to determine
12 whether such North Koreans require protection
13 as refugees; and

14 (C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951
15 United Nations Convention Relating to the Sta-
16 tus of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to
17 the Status of Refugees, and the Agreement on
18 the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the
19 People's Republic of China to UNHCR Branch
20 Office in the People's Republic of China (signed
21 December 1, 1995).

22 **SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN**
23 **HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004.**

24 (a) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—

25 Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the North Korean

1 Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)) is amend-
2 ed by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

3 (b) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Sec-
4 tion 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004
5 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

7 (A) by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting
8 “\$3,000,000”; and

9 (B) by striking “2017” and inserting
10 “2022”; and

11 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “2017” and
12 inserting “2022”.

13 (c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN
14 HUMAN RIGHTS.—Subsection (d) of section 107 of the
15 North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C.
16 7817) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting
17 “2022”.

18 (d) REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
19 tion 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004
20 (22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended in the matter preceding
21 paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

22 (e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH
23 KOREA.—Paragraph (1) of section 203(c) of the North
24 Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(c))
25 is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

1 (f) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 305 of the North
2 Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845) is
3 amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by strik-
4 ing “2017” and inserting “2022”.

5 **SEC. 5. REPEAL OF DUPLICATE AUTHORIZATIONS.**

6 Section 403 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy
7 Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–122; 22
8 U.S.C. 9253) is hereby repealed.

9 **SEC. 6. REPORT BY THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOV-**
10 **ERNORS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board
13 of Governors shall submit to the appropriate congressional
14 committees a report that—

15 (1) describes the status of current United
16 States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent
17 to which the Board has achieved the goal of 12-
18 hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea, in ac-
19 cordance with section 103(a) of the North Korean
20 Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a));
21 and

22 (2) includes a strategy to overcome obstacles to
23 such communication with the North Korean people,
24 including through unrestricted, unmonitored, and in-
25 expensive electronic means.

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

4 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
5 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” has the meaning given such term in section 5
7 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22
8 U.S.C. 7803).

9 **SEC. 7. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
12 in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal
13 departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate
14 congressional committees a report that includes a descrip-
15 tion of any ongoing or planned efforts of the Department
16 of State with respect to each of the following:

17 (1) Resuming the repatriation from North
18 Korea of members of the United States Armed
19 Forces missing or unaccounted for during the Ko-
20 rean War.

21 (2) Reuniting Korean Americans with their rel-
22 atives in North Korea.

23 (3) Assessing the security risks posed by travel
24 to North Korea for United States citizens.

1 (b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
2 shall be submitted in unclassified form.

3 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
4 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” has the meaning given such term in section 5
6 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22
7 U.S.C. 7803).



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 2061
OFFERED BY MR. YOHO OF FLORIDA**

Redesignate sections 5 through 7 as sections 6 through 8, respectively.

Insert after section 4 the following:

**1 SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
2 AND DEMOCRACY IN NORTH KOREA.**

3 The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, as
4 amended by this Act, is further amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a) of section 103 (22 U.S.C.
6 7813)—

7 (A) by striking “radio broadcasting” and
8 inserting “broadcasting, including news re-
9 broadcasting,”; and

10 (B) by striking “increase broadcasts” and
11 inserting “increase such broadcasts, including
12 news rebroadcasts,”; and

13 (2) in subsection (a) of section 104 (22 U.S.C.
14 7814)—

15 (A) by striking “The President” and in-
16 serting the following:

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President”;

2 (B) by inserting “, USB drives, micro SD
3 cards, audio players, video players, cell phones,
4 wi-fi, wireless internet, webpages, internet, wire-
5 less telecommunications, and other electronic
6 media that share information” before the period
7 at the end; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following new
9 paragraphs:

10 “(2) DISTRIBUTION.—In accordance with the
11 sense of Congress described in section 103, the
12 President, acting through the Secretary of State, is
13 authorized to distribute or provide grants to dis-
14 tribute information receiving devices, electronically
15 readable devices, and other informational sources
16 into North Korea, including devices and informa-
17 tional sources specified in paragraph (1). To carry
18 out this paragraph, the President is authorized to
19 issue directions to facilitate the free-flow of informa-
20 tion into North Korea.

21 “(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT
22 PROGRAM.—In accordance with the authorization de-
23 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) to increase the
24 availability and distribution of sources of informa-
25 tion inside North Korea, the President, acting

1 through the Secretary of State, is authorized to es-
2 tablish a grant program to make grants to eligible
3 entities to develop or distribute (or both) new prod-
4 ucts or methods to allow North Koreans easier ac-
5 cess to outside information. Such program may in-
6 volve public-private partnerships.

7 “(4) CULTURE.—In accordance with the sense
8 of Congress described in section 103, the Broad-
9 casting Board of Governors may broadcast Amer-
10 ican, Korean, and other popular music, television,
11 movies, and popular cultural references as part of its
12 programming.

13 “(5) RIGHTS AND LAWS.—In accordance with
14 the sense of Congress described in section 103, the
15 Broadcasting Board of Governors shall broadcast to
16 North Korea in the Korean language information on
17 rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the
18 North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declara-
19 tion of Human Rights, the United Nations Commis-
20 sion of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic
21 People’s Republic of Korea, and any other applicable
22 treaties or international agreements to which North
23 Korea is bound.

24 “(6) BROADCASTING REPORT.—Not later
25 than—

1 “(A) 180 days after the date of the enact-
2 ment of this paragraph, the Secretary of State,
3 in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of
4 Governors, shall submit to the appropriate con-
5 gressional committees a report that sets forth a
6 detailed plan for improving broadcasting con-
7 tent for the purpose of reaching additional au-
8 diences and increasing consumption of uncen-
9 sored news and information using all available
10 and reasonable means; and

11 “(B) one year after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this paragraph and annually thereafter
13 for each of the next five years, the Secretary of
14 State, in consultation with the Broadcasting
15 Board of Governors, shall submit to the appro-
16 priate congressional committees a report on the
17 effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this
18 section, including data reflecting audience and
19 listenership, device distribution and usage, tech-
20 nological development and advancement usage,
21 and other information as requested by such
22 committees.”.



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2408

To enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2017

Mr. CHABOT (for himself and Ms. KELLY of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To enhance the transparency, improve the coordination, and intensify the impact of assistance to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children and persons, including women and girls, 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 “Protecting Girls’ Ac-
5 cess to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act” or the
6 “Protecting Girls’ Access to Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) At the start of 2017, more than 65,000,000
4 people have been displaced by disasters and conflicts
5 around the world, the highest number recorded since
6 the end of World War II, of which more than
7 21,000,000 people are refugees.

8 (2) More than half of the population of dis-
9 placed people are children and, according to the
10 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
11 nearly 4,000,000 school-aged displaced children lack
12 access to primary education.

13 (3) Education offers socioeconomic opportuni-
14 ties, psychological stability, and physical protection
15 for displaced people, particularly for women and
16 girls, who might otherwise be vulnerable to severe
17 forms of trafficking in persons (as such term is de-
18 fined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Victims
19 Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(9))), child
20 marriage, sexual exploitation, or economic disenfran-
21 chisement, and contributes to long-term recovery
22 and economic opportunities for displaced people and
23 for the communities hosting them.

24 (4) Displaced children face considerable bar-
25 riers to accessing educational services and, because
26 the duration of such displacement is, on average, 20

1 years, such children may spend the entirety of their
2 childhood without access to such services.

3 (5) Despite the rising need for such services,
4 less than two percent of global emergency aid was
5 directed toward educational services in 2016.

6 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) it is critical to ensure that children, particu-
9 larly girls, displaced by conflicts overseas are able to
10 access educational services because such access can
11 combat extremism and reduce exploitation and pov-
12 erty; and

13 (2) the educational needs of vulnerable women
14 and girls should be considered in the design, imple-
15 mentation, and evaluation of related United States
16 foreign assistance policies and programs.

17 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

18 It is the policy of the United States to—

19 (1) partner with and encourage other countries,
20 public and private multilateral institutions, and non-
21 governmental and civil society organizations, includ-
22 ing faith-based organizations and organizations rep-
23 resenting parents and children, to support efforts to
24 ensure that displaced children have access to safe
25 primary and secondary education;

1 (2) work with donors to enhance training and
2 capacity-building for the governments of countries
3 hosting significant numbers of displaced people to
4 design, implement, and monitor programs to effec-
5 tively address barriers to such education;

6 (3) incorporate into the design and implementa-
7 tion of such programs measures to evaluate the im-
8 pact of the programs on girls, with respect to the re-
9 duction of child marriage, gender-based violence, and
10 severe forms of trafficking in persons (as such term
11 is defined in section 103(9) of the Trafficking Vic-
12 tims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(9)));
13 and

14 (4) coordinate with the governments of coun-
15 tries hosting significant numbers of displaced people
16 to—

17 (A) promote the inclusion of displaced chil-
18 dren into the educational systems of such coun-
19 tries; and

20 (B) develop innovative approaches to pro-
21 viding safe primary and secondary educational
22 opportunities in circumstances in which such in-
23 clusion is not possible or appropriate, such as
24 schools that permit more children to be edu-

1 cated by extending the hours of schooling and
2 expanding the number of teachers.

3 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT EDU-**
4 **CATIONAL SERVICES FOR DISPLACED CHIL-**
5 **DREN.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
7 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
8 national Development are authorized to prioritize and ad-
9 vance ongoing efforts to support programs that—

10 (1) provide safe primary and secondary edu-
11 cation for displaced children;

12 (2) build the capacity of institutions in coun-
13 tries hosting displaced people to prevent discrimina-
14 tion against displaced children, especially displaced
15 girls, who seek access to such education; and

16 (3) help increase the access of displaced chil-
17 dren, especially displaced girls, to educational, eco-
18 nomic, and entrepreneurial opportunities, including
19 through the governmental authorities responsible for
20 educational or youth services in such host countries.

21 (b) COORDINATION WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANI-
22 ZATIONS.—The Secretary and the Administrator are au-
23 thorized to coordinate with the World Bank, appropriate
24 agencies of the United Nations, and other relevant multi-
25 lateral organizations to work with governments in other

1 countries to collect relevant data, disaggregated by age
2 and gender, on the ability of displaced people to access
3 education and participate in economic activity, in order
4 to improve the targeting, monitoring, and evaluation of re-
5 lated assistance efforts.

6 (c) COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND
7 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary and the
8 Administrator are authorized to work with private sector
9 and civil society organizations to promote safe primary
10 and secondary education for displaced children.

11 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

12 During the five-year period beginning on the date of
13 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Adminis-
14 trator shall include in any report or evaluation submitted
15 to Congress relating to a foreign assistance program for
16 natural or manmade disaster relief or response the fol-
17 lowing information (to the extent practicable and appro-
18 priate):

19 (1) A breakdown of the beneficiaries of such
20 program by location, age, gender, marital status,
21 and school enrollment status.

22 (2) A description of how such program benefits
23 displaced people.

- 1 (3) A description of any primary or secondary
- 2 educational services supported by such program that
- 3 specifically address the needs of displaced girls.



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 128

Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance
in Ethiopia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. ELLISON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging
inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

Whereas the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been an ally of the United States and a partner in the War on Terrorism, as well as a contributor to international peacekeeping;

Whereas the first pillar of the United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa, announced in 2012, is to strengthen democratic institutions, and the Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Strategy of the United States Agency for International Development states that “strong democratic institutions, respect for human rights, and participatory, accountable governance are crucial elements for improving people’s lives in a sustainable way”;

Whereas the third pillar of the United States Strategy Toward Sub-Saharan Africa is to advance peace and security, including supporting security sector reform;

Whereas democratic space in Ethiopia has steadily diminished since the general elections of 2005;

Whereas elections were held in 2015 in which the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front party claimed 100 percent of parliamentary seats;

Whereas the 2016 Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Ethiopia cited serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, killings, and torture committed by security forces, restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of association, politically motivated trials, harassment, and intimidation of opposition members and journalists;

Whereas the Ethiopian Human Rights Council reported 102 deaths by April 2016 and Human Rights Watch subsequently reported that the Ethiopian security forces had killed between 500 and 800 peaceful protestors in the Oromia and Amhara regions by November 2016, and the number is likely higher;

Whereas state-sponsored violence against those exercising their rights to peaceful assembly, in Oromia and elsewhere in the country, and the abuse of laws to stifle journalistic freedoms stand in direct contrast to democratic principles and violate the constitution of Ethiopia;

Whereas since protests started in Oromia in 2015, the Ethiopian government has charged more than 150 students, opposition leaders, and activists at the Federal High Court under the 2009 Anti-Terrorism Proclamation (ATP) and repeatedly has abused such law to limit the

freedom of the press, silence independent journalists, and persecute members of the political opposition, including by—

(1) charging 20 university students in March 2016 under the criminal code for protesting in front of the United States Embassy in Addis Ababa, based only on a video of their protest and a list of demands;

(2) arresting Merera Gudina, Chairman of the Oromo Federalist Congress in December 2016 to be investigated under the ATP after he held meetings with European Union officials in Brussels;

(3) charging Yonatan Tesfaye Regassa, the former head of public relations for the opposition Semayawi Party (the Blue Party), with “planning, preparation, conspiracy, incitement and attempt” of a terrorist act, citing Facebook posts by Regassa about the protests as evidence; and

(4) arresting Getachew Shiferaw (the editor-in-chief of the online newspaper “Negere Ethiopia”), Fikadu Mirkana, (a news editor and reporter with the public “Oromia Radio and TV”), and blogger Zelalem Workagenchu (with an independent diaspora blog) under charges of conspiring to overthrow the government and supporting terrorism under the ATP;

Whereas, on April 25, 2016, the Federal High Court sentenced the former governor of the Gambella region, Okello Akway Ochalla, to nine years imprisonment, and the trial of Ochalla and his co-defendants was marred by violations of fair trial guarantees and included the use of witness testimonies in exchange for non-prosecution under the ATP;

Whereas in August 2015, eighteen Ethiopian Muslim leaders received prison sentences ranging from seven to 22 years in prison for peacefully protesting against government interference in the religious affairs of the Islamic community, some of whom were later pardoned;

Whereas criminal courts in Ethiopia are weak, overburdened, subject to political influence, accept the use of forced confessions, and allow detainees to be held for months without charge;

Whereas serious concerns have been raised regarding prison conditions in Ethiopia, including overcrowding, poor sanitation, lack of access to potable water, excessive use of solitary confinement, the use of rape and torture, withholding access to medical treatment, and denial of access to proper legal counsel or to visitors;

Whereas laws such as the 2009 Charities and Societies Proclamation have been used to restrict the operation of civil society organizations in Ethiopia, especially those investigating alleged violations of human rights by governmental authorities;

Whereas in June 2016, the Government of Ethiopia announced that it closed down more than 200 nongovernmental organizations within a nine-month period from 2015 to 2016 for failing to comply with the restrictive provisions of the 2009 Charities and Societies Proclamation;

Whereas the development strategy of the Government of Ethiopia has targeted the relocation of more than 1,500,000 people, including indigenous Anuaks in the Gambella region, from their ancestral lands for large-

scale land development under the “villagization” program;

Whereas the case of the “Zone 9 Bloggers”, whose arrest, detention, and trials on terrorism charges brought international attention to the restrictions on the freedom of the press in Ethiopia, is indicative of the coercive environment in which Ethiopian journalists operate;

Whereas, on October 9, 2016, the Government of Ethiopia imposed a far-reaching, six-month state of emergency that restricts a broad range of actions, including blocking mobile Internet access and social media communication, undermining freedoms of association, expression, and peaceful assembly, which led to the arrest of over 22,000 persons according to Ethiopian Government accounts, and codifying such tactics as arbitrary detention;

Whereas serious abuses have been and continue to be committed in the Somali regional state by federal and regional security forces, some of which may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity;

Whereas there has been no credible independent investigation into any of the abuses mentioned herein and no indication that anyone has been held to account for these abuses; and

Whereas during President Barack Obama’s historic visit to Addis Ababa in July 2015, Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn expressed the commitment of his government to deepen the democratic process and work towards improving governance and respect for human rights, and noted the need to step up efforts to strengthen institutions: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) condemns—

2 (A) the killing of peaceful protesters and
3 excessive use of force by Ethiopian security
4 forces;

5 (B) the arrest and detention of journalists,
6 students, activists, and political leaders who ex-
7 ercise their constitutional rights to freedom of
8 assembly and expression through peaceful pro-
9 tests; and

10 (C) the abuse of the Anti-Terrorism Proce-
11 lamation to stifle political and civil dissent and
12 journalistic freedoms;

13 (2) urges protesters in Ethiopia to refrain from
14 violence and to refrain from encouragement or ac-
15 ceptance of violence in demonstrations;

16 (3) urges all armed factions to cease their con-
17 flict with the Government of Ethiopia and engage in
18 peaceful negotiations directly and through inter-
19 national intermediaries;

20 (4) calls on the Government of Ethiopia to—

21 (A) lift the state of emergency;

22 (B) end the use of excessive force by secu-
23 rity forces;

24 (C) conduct a full, credible, and trans-
25 parent investigation into the killings and in-

1 stances of excessive use of force that took place
2 as a result of protests in the Oromia and Am-
3 hara regions and hold security forces account-
4 able for wrongdoing through public proceedings;

5 (D) release dissidents, activists, and jour-
6 nalists who have been imprisoned, including
7 those arrested for reporting about the protests,
8 for exercising constitutional rights;

9 (E) respect the right to freedom of peace-
10 ful assembly and guarantee the freedom of the
11 press and mass media, in keeping with Articles
12 30 and 29 of the Ethiopian constitution;

13 (F) engage in open and transparent con-
14 sultations with citizens regarding its develop-
15 ment strategy, especially those strategies that
16 could result in the displacement of people from
17 their land;

18 (G) allow a rapporteur appointed by the
19 United Nations to conduct an independent ex-
20 amination of the state of human rights in Ethi-
21 opia;

22 (H) address the grievances brought for-
23 ward by representatives of registered opposition
24 parties;

1 (I) hold accountable those responsible for
2 killing, torturing, and detaining innocent civil-
3 ians who exercised their constitutional rights;

4 (J) repeal proclamations that—

5 (i) can be used as a political tool to
6 harass or prohibit funding for civil society
7 organizations that investigate human
8 rights violations, engage in peaceful polit-
9 ical dissent, or advocate for greater polit-
10 ical freedoms;

11 (ii) prohibit or otherwise limit those
12 displaced from their land from seeking
13 remedy or redress in courts, or do not pro-
14 vide a transparent, accessible means to ac-
15 cess justice for those so displaced;

16 (iii) allow for the arrest and detention
17 of peaceful protesters and political oppo-
18 nents who legally exercise their rights to
19 freedom of expression and association; and

20 (iv) prohibit or otherwise limit peace-
21 ful nonprofit operations in Ethiopia; and

22 (K) investigate the circumstances sur-
23 rounding the September 3, 2016, shootings and
24 fire at Qilinto Prison, the deaths of persons in
25 attendance at the annual Irreecha festivities at

1 Lake Hora near Bishoftu on October 2, 2016,
2 and the ongoing killings of civilians over several
3 years in the Somali Regional State by federal
4 and regional police, and publically release a re-
5 port on such investigations in an expedient
6 manner;

7 (5) calls on the Secretary of State to conduct
8 a review of security assistance to Ethiopia in light
9 of recent developments and to improve transparency
10 with respect to the purposes of such assistance to
11 the people of Ethiopia;

12 (6) calls on the Administrator of the United
13 States Agency for International Development to im-
14 mediately lead efforts to develop a comprehensive
15 strategy to support improved democracy and govern-
16 ance in Ethiopia;

17 (7) calls on the Secretary of State, in conjunc-
18 tion with the Administrator of the United States
19 Agency for International Development, to improve
20 oversight and accountability of United States assist-
21 ance to Ethiopia, pursuant to the expectations estab-
22 lished in the United States Strategy Toward Sub-
23 Saharan Africa;

24 (8) calls on the Secretary of State, in coopera-
25 tion with the Secretary of the Treasury, to apply ap-

1 appropriate sanctions on foreign persons or entities re-
2 sponsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other
3 gross violations of internationally recognized human
4 rights committed against any nationals in Ethiopia
5 as provided for in the Global Magnitsky Human
6 Rights Accountability Act; and
7 (9) stands by the people of Ethiopia and sup-
8 ports their peaceful efforts to increase democratic
9 space and to exercise the rights guaranteed by the
10 Ethiopian constitution.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 128
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has been an important partner of the United States and a regional leader in promoting economic growth, global health, and peace and security;

Whereas Ethiopia has helped advance the national interests of the United States and regional partners, including through contributions to international peacekeeping, combating radical Islamist extremism and other forms of terrorism, and regional cooperation through the African Union;

Whereas Ethiopia has made great strides in addressing significant challenges in global health, child survival, and food security;

Whereas Ethiopia's transition from authoritarian rule to participatory democracy has not kept pace with other reforms;

Whereas general elections in 2005 were marred by violence, manipulation, and the detention of thousands of opposition members, journalists, and civic activists;

Whereas the ruling Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) claimed to win 99.6 percent of the vote in elections that were deemed neither free nor fair in 2010 and all 546 parliamentary seats in 2015,

thereby further consolidating the EPRDF's single party rule;

Whereas the Charities and Societies Proclamation and Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, both enacted in 2009, have accelerated the contraction of democratic space, severely limited the practice of fundamental human rights, enabled abuses by security forces, and impeded efforts to promote accountability for such abuses in Ethiopia;

Whereas government forces launched a violent crackdown on protests by ethnic Oromo and Amhara over their perceived marginalization in 2015, resulting in hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of arrests;

Whereas on October 9, 2016, the Government of Ethiopia imposed a six-month state of emergency, which was extended on March 30, 2017, that even further restricts freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, including through blockage of mobile Internet access and social media communication;

Whereas the 2016 Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Ethiopia cited serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, killings, and torture committed by security forces, restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of association, politically motivated trials, harassment, and intimidation of opposition members and journalists;

Whereas these persistent human right abuses, including state-sponsored violence against civilians in the Oromia, Amhara, and Ogaden regions of Ethiopia, as well as the abuse of laws to stifle journalistic freedoms, stand in direct contrast to democratic principles, violate the Constitution of Ethiopia, and undermine Ethiopia's position

as a regional leader for economic growth, peace, and security: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

- 1 That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) recognizes and commends Ethiopia’s efforts
- 3 to promote regional peace and security, including
- 4 through the contribution of peacekeeping forces to
- 5 regional and United Nations peacekeeping oper-
- 6 ations;
- 7 (2) recognizes the importance of continued
- 8 United States and Ethiopian partnership in combat-
- 9 ting terrorism, promoting economic growth and op-
- 10 portunity, and addressing global health challenges;
- 11 (3) notes with deep concern persistent reports
- 12 of widespread human rights abuses and the contrac-
- 13 tion of democratic space in Ethiopia, which may
- 14 threaten stability and reverse economic progress over
- 15 the long term;
- 16 (4) condemns the use of excessive force by Ethi-
- 17 opian security forces, including the killing of un-
- 18 armed protesters, and the wrongful arrest and de-
- 19 tention of journalists, students, activists, and polit-
- 20 ical leaders exercising their constitutional rights to
- 21 freedom of assembly, association, and expression;

1 (5) calls on the Government of Ethiopia to—

2 (A) lift the state of emergency, repeal or
3 amend proclamations used as a tool to suppress
4 human rights in Ethiopia, including the Char-
5 ities and Societies Proclamation and Anti-Ter-
6 rorism Proclamation of 2009, and respect the
7 rights of Ethiopian citizens to freedom of as-
8 sembly and expression, in keeping with Articles
9 30 and 29 of the Ethiopian Constitution;

10 (B) end the use of excessive force by Ethi-
11 opian security forces and hold accountable those
12 responsible for killing, torturing, or otherwise
13 abusing the human rights of civilians exercising
14 their constitutional rights through fair and pub-
15 lic trials;

16 (C) release activists, journalists, and oppo-
17 sition figures who have been wrongfully impris-
18 oned for exercising their constitutional rights,
19 including those arrested for reporting about
20 public protests;

21 (D) improve transparency around develop-
22 ment policies and activities that may infringe
23 upon the human rights of local communities;
24 and

1 (E) allow for an independent examination
2 of the state of human rights in Ethiopia by a
3 rapporteur appointed by the United Nations;

4 (6) urges protesters in Ethiopia to refrain from
5 the use or incitement of violence in demonstrations;

6 (7) urges opposition groups and the Govern-
7 ment of Ethiopia to directly engage in peaceful nego-
8 tiations;

9 (8) calls on the Department of State and the
10 United States Agency for International Develop-
11 ment—

12 (A) to engage in a cooperative effort with
13 the Government of Ethiopia in the formulation
14 of a comprehensive strategy, in coordination
15 with other donors, to help advance democracy,
16 rule of law, human rights, economic growth,
17 and peace and security in Ethiopia;

18 (B) continue to strengthen ties with Ethi-
19 opia, including through the provision of appro-
20 priate levels and forms of security assistance, in
21 correlation to the Ethiopian Government's own
22 demonstrated commitment to democracy, rule
23 of law, human rights, economic growth, and
24 peace and security in the region;

1 (C) condemn human rights abuses and the
2 excessive use of force by Ethiopian security
3 forces while pressing for the release of individ-
4 uals wrongfully detained; and

5 (D) hold accountable individuals respon-
6 sible for gross human rights violations in Ethi-
7 opia through appropriate mechanisms, which
8 may include the imposition of targeted sanc-
9 tions pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human
10 Rights Accountability Act (Public Law 114–
11 328); and

12 (9) stands by the people of Ethiopia and sup-
13 ports their peaceful efforts to increase democratic
14 space and to exercise the rights guaranteed by the
15 Ethiopian Constitution.



**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT IN THE
NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H. RES. 128
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY**

In the 11th clause of the preamble, strike “Ogaden”
and insert “Somali”.

Page 5, beginning on line 7, strike “negotiations”
and insert “discussions to air grievances and broaden po-
litical discourse”.



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 259

Expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social,
and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. DESANTIS (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SIREs, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing concern and condemnation over the political,
economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

Whereas there is no separation of powers or independent institutions in Venezuela and President Maduro controls the Presidency, a majority of the municipalities, the Supreme Court, the military leadership, and the leadership of Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA);

Whereas Venezuela's National Electoral Council postponed elections for governors and mayors scheduled for December 2016 and has not set a date to reschedule elections;

Whereas there have been several attempts at dialogue between President Maduro and the opposition over the past year, which have all failed to achieve results;

Whereas a political solution is the way to provide sustainable change for the Venezuelan people, but the dialogues up until now have helped provide Maduro a lifeline while his government is collapsing;

Whereas the Venezuelan government continues to silence its citizens through political arrests, with more than 100 political prisoners currently in jail, including opposition leader Leopoldo López;

Whereas Joshua Holt, a United States citizen, remains imprisoned in Venezuela awaiting a trial, with five postponed hearings to date;

Whereas police and military raids have led to widespread allegations of abuse, including extrajudicial killings, mass arbitrary detentions, torture in prisons, forced evictions, and arbitrary deportations;

Whereas Venezuela is immersed in a deep economic crisis, with the highest inflation in the world and current inflation estimated to top roughly 1,600 percent in 2017, according to the International Monetary Fund;

Whereas in July 2016, President Maduro handed over control of the food supply system to the military, which has enabled corruption, fraud, and food trafficking by the military contributing to food shortages, a scarcity of basic goods, and political discrimination in the distribution of food and basic goods;

Whereas deteriorating conditions in health care persist, with the World Health Organization estimating that there are shortages for 75 percent of necessary medications and medical supplies, up from 55 percent in 2014 and 67 percent in 2015;

Whereas the country is facing increasing outbreaks of malaria and diphtheria, previously eradicated diseases in Venezuela;

Whereas the country has experienced an increase in emigration, according to multiple press reports, including the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and Washington Post;

Whereas Venezuela is the leading country for asylum requests to the United States in the world, according to data reported by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela has expanded its powers to regulate media and reduce the number of dissenting media outlets, including CNN en Español after CNN broadcasted a report alleging that Vice President Tareck El Aissami was directly linked to passport fraud involving members of Hezbollah;

Whereas, on February 13, 2017, the United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control designated Tareck Zaidan El Aissami Maddah as a Specially Designated Narcotics Trafficker pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act for playing a significant role in international narcotics trafficking and imposed sanctions on Mr. El Aissami and froze his assets in the United States;

Whereas, on March 14, 2017, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Luis Almagro, issued a second report on the crisis in Venezuela following his May 2016 report, documenting an altercation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter by the Government of Venezuela and calling for free, fair, and open

elections and the release of political prisoners without delay;

Whereas, on March 23, 2017, fourteen OAS Member States published a joint statement calling for the Government of Venezuela to hold elections, restore the constitutional powers of the National Assembly, and release political prisoners;

Whereas, on March 28, 2017, the OAS Permanent Council agreed by a vote of 20 in favor, 11 against, 2 abstentions, and 1 absent/nonvoting Member States to move forward in discussing the situation in Venezuela;

Whereas, on March 28, 2017, the Supreme Court of Venezuela stripped opposition leaders of the National Assembly of their parliamentary immunity and began to take steps to consider prosecuting them for treason;

Whereas, on March 29, 2017, the Venezuelan Supreme Court seized power from the democratically elected National Assembly and nullified the legislative branch's ability to function;

Whereas, on March 31, 2017, in the first major break of a sitting Venezuelan public official, Venezuelan Attorney General Luisa Ortega Diaz affirmed the Supreme Court's actions "had broken constitutional order";

Whereas, on March 31, 2017, Venezuelan citizens took to the streets protesting the Supreme Court's breach of power;

Whereas, on April 1, 2017, during an emergency meeting of the Mercosur countries, the foreign ministers of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay released a statement urging the Government of Venezuela to follow its constitution and guarantee "the effective separation of powers"; and

Whereas, on April 1, 2017, the Supreme Court reversed its earlier decisions taking over the National Assembly's legislative powers and stripping the legislators of their parliamentary immunity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns the decisions by the Venezuelan
3 Supreme Court on March 28, 2017, and March 29,
4 2017, stripping the opposition legislators of their
5 parliamentary immunity and seizing power from the
6 National Assembly, nullifying all legislative actions;

7 (2) recognizes the decision by the Venezuelan
8 Supreme Court on April 1, 2017, to restore the op-
9 position legislators' parliamentary immunity and the
10 National Assembly's legislative powers;

11 (3) urges the Government of Venezuela to heed
12 the calls of the international community to hold free,
13 fair, and open elections, release all political pris-
14 oners, including U.S. citizens, and immediately ac-
15 cept international humanitarian assistance only
16 through nongovernmental organizations;

17 (4) urges OAS Member States to continue all
18 efforts, including the consideration of a potential
19 suspension of Venezuela from the OAS, if the Gov-
20 ernment of Venezuela fails to hold free, fair, and
21 open elections and release all political prisoners in a
22 timely manner; and

1 (5) encourages the President of the United
2 States to prioritize a resolution of the political, eco-
3 nomic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela,
4 including through bilateral, targeted sanctions
5 against individuals in the Government of Venezuela
6 responsible for the deterioration of democratic insti-
7 tutions and the rule of law in the country.

○

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 259
OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS OF FLORIDA**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas in Venezuela, President Nicolas Maduro controls the Presidency, a majority of the municipalities, the Supreme Court, the military leadership, and the leadership of Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), and has gutted the National Assembly of the power it constitutionally holds;

Whereas in late October 2016, Venezuela's state courts and National Electoral Council, which are comprised of political allies of President Maduro, halted efforts to hold a referendum pursuant to provisions of the Venezuelan constitution to recall President Maduro, thereby denying the Venezuelan people the ability to pursue a democratic solution to Venezuela's crisis;

Whereas Venezuela's National Electoral Council postponed elections for governors and mayors scheduled for December 2016 and has not set a date to reschedule these elections;

Whereas there have been several attempts at dialogue between President Maduro and the opposition over the past year, which have all failed to yield tangible results;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela continues to silence its citizens through political arrests, with more than 444 political prisoners currently in jail;

Whereas Joshua Holt, a United States citizen, remains imprisoned in Venezuela with no due process, and four postponed hearings to date;

Whereas in its 2016 report, Venezuela's Violence Observatory assessed a widespread use of firearms by criminals and increased use of violence by police and military officials, contributing to a homicide rate of 91.8 per 100,000 residents, making Venezuela one of the most violent countries in the world;

Whereas police and military raids have led to widespread allegations of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, mass arbitrary detentions, torture, forced evictions, and arbitrary deportations;

Whereas Venezuela is immersed in a deep economic crisis, with shortages of basic food supplies and medicines, and inflation estimated to top roughly 1,600 percent in 2017, according to the International Monetary Fund;

Whereas the Venezuelan military controls the production and distribution of basic food supplies, which has enabled corruption, fraud, and food trafficking, and exacerbated shortages throughout the country;

Whereas deteriorating conditions in health care persist, with the World Health Organization estimating that there are shortages of 75 percent of necessary medications and medical supplies, up from 55 percent in 2014 and 67 percent in 2015;

Whereas a recent survey – conducted jointly by the Central University of Venezuela, the Andrés Bello Catholic University and the Simón Bolívar University – found that almost 75 percent of Venezuelans lost an average of at

least 19 pounds in 2016 as a result of a lack of proper nutrition amidst the country's economic crisis;

Whereas the country is facing increasing outbreaks of previously eradicated diseases, such as malaria and diphtheria;

Whereas the Health Ministry in Venezuela published an epidemiological bulletin in May 2017 (the first since 2015), showing a 30 percent increase in infant mortality, a 66 percent rise in maternal mortality, and a 76 percent increase in malaria cases;

Whereas the deteriorating conditions in Venezuela have prompted tens of thousands of Venezuelans to flee to countries throughout the Western Hemisphere, including Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Perú, and the United States, which threatens a wider refugee crisis in the region;

Whereas there were 18,000 asylum requests from Venezuelans seeking to enter the United States in 2016, which according to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services was the highest number of requests made by any nationality last year;

Whereas the Government of Venezuela has regulated and reduced the number of local and international media outlets with opposing views, including CNN en Español following its broadcast of a report alleging that Vice President Tarek El Aissami was directly linked to a ring of fraudulent Venezuelan passports provided to foreigners including known members of the terrorist organization Hezbollah;

Whereas, on February 13, 2017, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control designated

Venezuela's Vice President Tareck Zaidan El Aissami Maddah as a Specially Designated Narcotics Trafficker pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act for playing a significant role in international narcotics trafficking, and imposed sanctions on Mr. El Aissami and froze his assets in the United States;

Whereas, on March 23, 2017, fourteen Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) published a joint statement calling for the Government of Venezuela to hold elections, restore the constitutional powers of the National Assembly, and release political prisoners;

Whereas, on March 28, 2017, the OAS Permanent Council agreed by a vote of 20 in favor, 11 against, 2 abstentions, and 1 absent/nonvoting Member States to move forward in discussing the situation in Venezuela;

Whereas, on March 28, 2017, the Supreme Court of Venezuela stripped opposition leaders of the National Assembly of their parliamentary immunity and began to take steps to consider prosecuting them for treason;

Whereas, on March 29, 2017, the Venezuelan Supreme Court seized power from the democratically elected National Assembly and nullified the legislative branch's ability to function;

Whereas, on March 31, 2017, in the first major break of a sitting Venezuelan public official, Venezuelan Attorney General Luisa Ortega Díaz affirmed the Supreme Court's actions "had broken constitutional order";

Whereas, on March 31, 2017, Venezuelan citizens took to the streets protesting the Supreme Court's breach of power;

Whereas, on April 1, 2017, the Supreme Court reversed its earlier decisions taking over the National Assembly's leg-

islative powers and stripping the legislators of their parliamentary immunity;

Whereas, on April 26, 2017, the Government of Venezuela announced its intent to withdraw from the OAS;

Whereas on May 1, 2017, President Maduro announced a national vote to create a Constituent Assembly to rewrite the Venezuelan Constitution of 1999, which OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro stated (in testimony before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on July 19, 2017) was “imposed by decree without the people and against the people, setting the will of the dictatorship above the popular will expressed through universal and direct vote”;

Whereas, on May 2, 2017, the Department of State stated, “We have deep concerns about the motivation for this constituent assembly, which overrides the will of the Venezuelan people and further erodes Venezuelan democracy”;

Whereas peaceful protests by Venezuelan citizens since March of 2017 have been met with violence from Venezuelan authorities that has caused 100 deaths;

Whereas, on May 17, 2017, the United Nations Security Council met to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela;

Whereas, on May 18, 2017, the Department of the Treasury announced United States sanctions against eight Venezuelan Government officials, all members of Venezuela’s Supreme Court, pursuant to Executive Order 13692, for their responsibility in issuing a number of rulings that “interfere with or limit the National Assembly’s author-

ity” and that “limit the ability of the National Assembly to conduct its constitutional duties”;

Whereas, on May 23, 2017, President Maduro signed a document formally establishing the terms for electing members of a Constituent Assembly, presenting the proposed body as a way to rewrite the Constitution;

Whereas, on June 2, 2017, President Maduro pledged to hold a referendum on the proposed new constitution;

Whereas, on June 20, 2017, the OAS General Assembly meeting was held in Cancún, Mexico, where a resolution regarding the precarious situation in Venezuela failed to gain the votes needed for passage;

Whereas Venezuela’s Attorney General Luisa Ortega Diaz is being legally pursued for defying President Maduro, with the Supreme Court banning her from leaving the country and freezing her assets;

Whereas, on July 8, 2017, opposition leader Leopoldo López was released from prison but remains under house arrest;

Whereas, on July 16, 2017, more than seven million people cast votes in a popular consultation to reject the Constituent Assembly;

Whereas on July 19, 2017, Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro, issued a third report on the crisis in Venezuela which documented the violations of the constitution and systemic violations of human rights by the Government of Venezuela and calling for the immediate suspension of the Constituent Assembly, the cessation of violent repression, the opening of a channel for humanitarian assistance, and the release of political prisoners; and

Whereas, on July 20, 2017, the government-controlled Venezuelan Supreme Court annulled the process of the appointment of judges by the opposition-controlled National Assembly: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolved text and insert the following:

- 1 That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) urges the Government of Venezuela to sus-
- 3 pend the convening of the Constituent Assembly
- 4 scheduled on July 30, 2017, and to heed the calls
- 5 of the international community without delay to hold
- 6 free, fair, and open elections, release all political
- 7 prisoners, including United States citizens, respect
- 8 the constitutional rights of the National Assembly,
- 9 and open a channel for international humanitarian
- 10 assistance and medicines;
- 11 (2) urges Organization of American States
- 12 (OAS) Member States to continue all efforts to sup-
- 13 port the principles of the Inter-American Democratic
- 14 Charter, regardless of Venezuela's intent to with-
- 15 draw from the OAS, and continue calls for the Gov-
- 16 ernment of Venezuela to hold free and fair elections
- 17 and release all political prisoners in a timely man-
- 18 ner;

1 (3) recognizes the strong leadership of OAS
2 Secretary General Luis Almagro in building a coali-
3 tion of OAS Member States in support of democracy
4 and human rights for the Venezuelan people; and

5 (4) encourages the President of the United
6 States to prioritize a resolution to the political, eco-
7 nomic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela
8 and an effective response to the growing regional
9 refugee crisis that is emanating from Venezuela,
10 through multilateral cooperation with partners at
11 the OAS and United Nations, and through targeted
12 sanctions against individuals responsible for the de-
13 terioration of democratic institutions and the rule of
14 law in Venezuela.



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 311

Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2017

Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mrs. WAGNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia.

Whereas the United States and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members—Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam—have worked together to advance our shared goals for 40 years, having established dialogue relations on September 10, 1977, with the issuing of the 1977 Joint Communique of the First ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue, and the United States acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session with the United States in Thailand on July 22, 2009;

Whereas the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN on April 29, 2008, and the first dialogue partner to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas the United States has supported efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat and expand its role in providing greater coordination among, and enhancing the effectiveness of, regional institutions;

Whereas, working together, the Governments and people of the United States and ASEAN can help realize their common vision of a peaceful, prosperous, rules-based Asia-Pacific region that offers security, opportunity, and dignity to all of its citizens;

Whereas ASEAN's ten members, taken collectively, are the seventh-largest economy in the world, with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$2.4 trillion, and represent the United States fourth-largest export market with total two-way trade in goods and services reaching \$254 billion and accounting for more than 500,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas ASEAN's ten members represent a diverse group of nations and dynamic economies with an expanding workforce, a growing middle class, and a diverse set of skills, cultures, and resources;

Whereas ASEAN is home to critical global sea lanes located at the center of the world's strongest economic growth area, with \$5.3 trillion of global trade and more than half of total shipped tonnage transiting through ASEAN's waters each year;

Whereas ASEAN, taken collectively, is the third-fastest growing economy in Asia after China and India, expanding by

30 percent since 2007 and exceeding the global growth average for the past ten years;

Whereas the ASEAN Economic Community aims to create one of the largest single market economies in the world, facilitating the free movement of goods, services, and professionals and engendering a sense of economic community among its member states;

Whereas the United States is the largest investor in Southeast Asia, with total foreign direct investment stock of nearly \$226 billion in 2014, creating millions of jobs in the United States and in ASEAN member states, while investment in the United States from Southeast Asia has increased more than any other region's investment in the past decade;

Whereas the United States has helped ASEAN create a Single Window customs facilitation system that will aid in expediting intra-ASEAN trade and make it easier for United States businesses to operate in the region;

Whereas the U.S.-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs has already trained 4,600 small to medium enterprises, with nearly half of the individuals trained being young women entrepreneurs;

Whereas United States-ASEAN development cooperation has focused on innovation and capacity-building efforts in technology, education, disaster management, food security, human rights, and trade facilitation;

Whereas the Lower Mekong Initiative, established on July 23, 2009, is a multinational effort that helps promote sustainable economic development in mainland Southeast Asia to foster integrated, multisectoral, subregional cooperation and capacity building;

Whereas the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) was signed by all members of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China (PRC) on November 4, 2002, committing ASEAN and the PRC to "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability," and reaffirming "that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region and agree to work, on the basis of consensus, toward the eventual attainment of this objective";

Whereas the leaders of the United States and ASEAN, at their Special Leaders Summit in Sunnylands, California, on February 16, 2016, reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintain peace, security, and stability in the region.

Whereas the United States supports the East Asia Summit (EAS) as the premier leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on political, security, and economic issues in the region and commends the direction set in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration at the EAS 10th anniversary, including the new exchange mechanism for EAS members' ambassadors;

Whereas ASEAN is a partner to the United States on key transnational challenges, such as terrorism, violent extremism, environmental degradation, pollution, energy, infectious diseases, disarmament, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing;

Whereas the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners, through the 2015 East Asia Summit, adopted

a statement on transnational cyber issues that emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation to improve the security and stability of cyber networks, setting an important precedent for strengthening practical cooperation, risk reduction, and confidence building in cyberspace;

Whereas the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane adopted a statement on nonproliferation that reaffirmed the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners' leaders' support for efforts at the national, regional, and international level to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and reiterated the importance of nuclear security to combating nuclear terrorism;

Whereas North Korea's provocative missile launches and nuclear tests highlighted the threat posed by its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and contradicts calls by ASEAN leaders at the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane for North Korea to abide by multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and international obligations;

Whereas the ASEAN region has experienced natural disasters including Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines;

Whereas conservation and sustainable management of forests throughout ASEAN play an important role in helping to reduce the risks of extreme weather events and other natural disasters, and provide sustainable economic livelihood opportunities for local communities;

Whereas the United States will pursue initiatives that are consistent with broader sustainable development goals,

including the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation throughout the ASEAN region;

Whereas the United States is a committed partner with ASEAN on the protection of human rights, which are not only essential for fostering and maintaining stability, security, and good governance, but protecting the basic rights and fundamental dignities of the people of ASEAN;

Whereas, on November 18, 2012, ASEAN member states came together and adopted an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration that, by its own terms, “affirms all the civil and political rights” and the “economic social and cultural rights” in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the United States supports the work and mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), including capacity building for the promotion and protection of human rights and the AICHR’s priorities programs, and activities;

Whereas the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Program has now engaged over 100,000 people between the ages of 18 and 35 across all ten ASEAN nations to promote innovation among young people while also providing skills to a new generation who will create and fill the jobs of the future;

Whereas the irregular movement of persons continues to be one of the main security threats in the Southeast Asia region;

Whereas addressing migration flows and combating human smuggling and human trafficking in ASEAN is an impor-

tant, ongoing challenge requiring increased coordination and shared responsibility;

Whereas, on November 21, 2015, ASEAN member states signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which represents an important step forward in preventing human trafficking, prosecuting the perpetrators, and protecting the survivors;

Whereas the United States supports ASEAN member states in anticorruption efforts through, among other initiatives, the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

Whereas Vice President Pence traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 20, 2017, where he met with the ASEAN Secretary General and ASEAN Permanent Representatives, congratulated ASEAN on its 50th anniversary, and remarked on the 40th anniversary of the United States diplomatic relationship with ASEAN, noting that the U.S.-ASEAN relationship has “without a doubt has benefitted both ASEAN and America—diplomatically, economically, and from the standpoint of national security”;

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence pledged that the United States would “redouble our cooperation with ASEAN on issues of regional security” and continue to support “increased information sharing and security efforts to protect our people and our way of life across the ASEAN region and across the wider world,” and “continue to work closely with ASEAN to promote peace and stability in the South China Sea by upholding a rules-based order, ensuring the lawful and unimpeded flow of commerce, and encouraging the peaceful and diplomatic resolution of disputes.”;

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence remarked that “By strengthening our economic ties, the United States and ASEAN member nations can foster jobs, prosperity, and growth in new and unprecedented ways.” and that “American exports to ASEAN member nations already support more than 550,000 jobs in the United States, and almost 42,000 U.S. companies export more than \$100 billion in goods and services to ASEAN nations every year.”; and

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence announced that President Trump will attend the U.S.-ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit, and the APEC Leaders Meeting in Vietnam and the Philippines in November 2017: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) welcomes the leaders of the Association of
3 South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the United
4 States for the meetings with Secretary of State Rex
5 Tillerson and members of Congress and affirms the
6 meeting as the first of regular United States-
7 ASEAN meetings;

8 (2) supports and affirms the elevation of the
9 United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic
10 partnership and recommits the United States to
11 ASEAN centrality and to helping to build a strong,
12 stable, politically cohesive, economically integrated,
13 and socially responsible ASEAN community with
14 common rules, norms, procedures, and standards

1 consistent with international law and the principles
2 of a rules-based Asia-Pacific community;

3 (3) urges ASEAN to continue its efforts to fos-
4 ter greater integration and unity toward the ASEAN
5 community;

6 (4) recognizes the value of ASEAN working
7 with economic, political, and security partners, such
8 as Australia, Canada, the European Union, India,
9 Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of
10 Korea, and Taiwan both inside of and outside of
11 Asia, as the advantage of strategic economic initia-
12 tives like the U.S.-ASEAN Connect that dem-
13 onstrate a commitment to ASEAN and the AEC and
14 build upon economic relationships in the region;

15 (5) reaffirms the enhancement of United
16 States-ASEAN economic engagement, including the
17 elimination of barriers to cross-border commerce,
18 and supports the ASEAN Economic Community's
19 goals, including strong, inclusive, and sustainable
20 growth and cooperation with the United States that
21 focuses on innovation and capacity building efforts
22 in technology, education, disaster management, food
23 security, human rights, and trade facilitation, in-
24 cluding for ASEAN's poorest countries;

1 (6) supports efforts by ASEAN member states
2 to address maritime and territorial disputes in a
3 constructive manner and to pursue claims through
4 peaceful, diplomatic, and legitimate regional and
5 international arbitration mechanisms, consistent
6 with international law, including through the adop-
7 tion of a code of conduct in the South China Sea to
8 further promote peace and stability in the region;

9 (7) urges all parties to maritime and territorial
10 disputes in the Asia-Pacific region, including the
11 People's Republic of China, to—

12 (A) exercise self-restraint in the conduct of
13 activities that would undermine stability or
14 complicate or escalate disputes through the use
15 of coercion, intimidation, or military force; and

16 (B) refrain from new efforts to militarize
17 uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other
18 features, including but not limited to the con-
19 struction of new garrisons and facilities, and
20 the relocation of additional military personnel,
21 materiel, or equipment;

22 (8) opposes actions by any country to prevent
23 any other country from exercising its sovereign
24 rights to the resources of the exclusive economic
25 zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by seeking to en-

1 force claims to those areas in the South China Sea
2 that have no support in international law;

3 (9) opposes unilateral declarations of adminis-
4 trative and military districts in contested areas in
5 the South China Sea;

6 (10) supports efforts to negotiate the joint
7 management of maritime resources through diplo-
8 macy and peaceful negotiation;

9 (11) urges parties to refrain from unilateral ac-
10 tions that cause permanent physical damage to the
11 marine environment and supports the efforts of the
12 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
13 and ASEAN to implement guidelines to address ille-
14 gal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the re-
15 gion;

16 (12) supports efforts by United States partners
17 and allies in ASEAN—

18 (A) to enhance maritime capability and
19 maritime domain awareness;

20 (B) to protect unhindered access to and
21 use of international waterways in the Asia-Pa-
22 cific region that are critical to ensuring the se-
23 curity and free flow of commerce;

24 (C) to counter piracy;

1 (D) to disrupt illicit maritime trafficking
2 activities such as the trafficking of persons,
3 goods, and drugs; and

4 (E) to enhance the maritime capabilities of
5 countries or regional organizations to respond
6 to emerging threats to maritime security in the
7 Asia-Pacific region;

8 (13) urges ASEAN member states to develop a
9 common approach to reaffirm the decision of the
10 Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague's rul-
11 ing with respect to the case between the Republic of
12 the Philippines and the People's Republic of China;

13 (14) reaffirms the commitment of the United
14 States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt
15 human smuggling and trafficking in persons and
16 urges ASEAN to make increased efforts to create
17 and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide as-
18 sistance and support to refugees and migrants;

19 (15) supports the Lower Mekong Initiative,
20 which has made significant progress in promoting
21 sustainable economic development in mainland
22 Southeast Asia and fostering integrated subregional
23 cooperation and capacity building;

24 (16) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the
25 promotion and protection of human rights by

1 ASEAN member states, and the implementation of
2 related priorities, programs, and activities;

3 (17) urges ASEAN governments to engage di-
4 rectly with leaders of civil society and human rights,
5 including victims of human rights abuses, and
6 prioritize the construction of forums that give these
7 stakeholders a voice to instruct public policy;

8 (18) encourages the President to communicate
9 to ASEAN leaders the importance of protecting
10 human rights, releasing political prisoners and end-
11 ing politically motivated prosecutions, strengthening
12 civil society, safeguarding the freedom of the press,
13 the freedom of assembly, and the free flow of infor-
14 mation and ideas, and promoting open and trans-
15 parent government; and

16 (19) supports the Young Southeast Asian Lead-
17 ers Initiative program as an example of people-to-
18 people partnership building that provides skills, net-
19 works, and leadership capabilities to a new genera-
20 tion of people who will create and fill jobs, foster
21 cross-border cooperation and partnerships, and rise
22 to solve the regional and global challenges of the fu-
23 ture.

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 311
OFFERED BY MR. CASTRO OF TEXAS**

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas on September 10, 1977, the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (in this resolution referred to as “ASEAN”) established dialogue relations, with 2017 marking the 40th anniversary of United States-ASEAN relations;

Whereas on August 8, 2017, ASEAN will celebrate fifty years of regional cooperation towards greater stability, peace, and prosperity in Southeast Asia;

Whereas on April 29, 2008, the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN and the United States became the first dialogue partner to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas the United States committed in 2009 to hold an annual United States-ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting, and upgraded the commitment in 2012 to an annual United States-ASEAN Summit;

Whereas on April 20, 2017, Vice President Mike Pence met with the ASEAN Secretary General and ASEAN Permanent Representatives in Jakarta, Indonesia, and stated that the United States-ASEAN relationship “without a doubt has benefitted both ASEAN and America—dip-

lomatically, economically, and from the standpoint of national security”;

Whereas on February 16, 2016, at the Sunnylands Summit in California, the United States and ASEAN reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintain peace, security, and stability throughout the region;

Whereas in 2013 ASEAN, as a whole, was the seventh-largest economy in the world with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$2.4 trillion, and is the United States’ fourth-largest export market with total exports reaching \$102,000,000,000 in 2015;

Whereas the United States and ASEAN have strong economic ties, as the United States is the single largest investor in ASEAN with accumulated United States foreign direct investment totaling almost \$226,000,000,000 as of 2014, and economic relations with ASEAN supporting more than 500,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN partnership is vital to the security interests of the United States, as both the United States and the members of ASEAN have a shared common interest in a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes and achieving a denuclearized North Korea;

Whereas on November 4, 2002, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea was signed by all members of ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China, committing all parties to “exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability”;

Whereas ASEAN is a partner to the United States on key transnational challenges, such as terrorism, violent extre-

mism, environmental degradation, energy, infectious diseases, disarmament, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing; and

Whereas the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane adopted a statement on nonproliferation that reaffirmed the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners' support for efforts at the national, regional, and international level to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and reiterated the importance of nuclear security to combating nuclear terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Strike the resolved text and insert the following:

- 1 That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) supports and affirms the elevation of the
- 3 United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic
- 4 partnership, and reaffirms the United States com-
- 5 mitment to promoting a rules-based order in the
- 6 Asia-Pacific and economic growth, peace, human
- 7 rights and stability in Southeast Asia;
- 8 (2) recognizes the value of ASEAN working
- 9 with economic, political, and security partners, such
- 10 as Australia, Canada, the European Union, India,
- 11 Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of
- 12 Korea, and Taiwan both inside and outside of Asia,
- 13 to both strengthen existing initiatives such as the

1 United States-ASEAN Connect and to develop new
2 initiatives that address mutual strategic concerns;

3 (3) encourages the enhancement of economic
4 engagement between the United States and ASEAN
5 through the elimination of trade barriers;

6 (4) supports cooperation with ASEAN to imple-
7 ment practical counter-terrorism and countering vio-
8 lent extremism measures, including efforts to
9 counter homegrown radicalization and stem foreign
10 fighter travel;

11 (5) supports efforts by ASEAN member states
12 and other regional states, including the People's Re-
13 public of China, to address maritime and territorial
14 disputes in a constructive manner and to pursue
15 claims, through diplomacy and the use of legitimate
16 regional and international arbitration mechanisms,
17 consistent with international law, including through
18 the adoption of a code of conduct in the South
19 China Sea to further promote peace and stability in
20 the region;

21 (6) urges all parties to maritime and territorial
22 disputes in the Asia-Pacific region to—

23 (A) exercise self-restraint in the conduct of
24 activities that would undermine stability or es-

1 calate disputes through the use of coercion, in-
2 timidation, or military force; and

3 (B) refrain from efforts to militarize
4 uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other
5 features, through actions including the con-
6 struction of new garrisons and facilities, and
7 the relocation of additional military personnel,
8 materiel, or equipment; and

9 (7) reaffirms the commitment of the United
10 States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt
11 human smuggling and trafficking in persons and
12 urges ASEAN to make increased efforts to create
13 and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide as-
14 sistance and support to refugees and migrants.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill reaffirming
the 40 years of relations between the United States and
the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN),
and the shared pursuit of economic growth and regional
security in Southeast Asia.”.



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 357

Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HUIZENGA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy, and for other purposes.

Whereas history, proximity, commerce, security, and shared democratic values underpin a close relationship between the United States and Canada;

Whereas this year marks 150 years of the Canadian Confederation;

Whereas Americans and Canadians have the longest international border and one of the largest commercial relationships in the world, with \$1.7 billion of trade and nearly 400,000 people crossing the shared border daily;

Whereas Canada is the United States largest trading partner, and a majority of States of the United States also consider Canada their top export destination, with 15 States counting Canada as their top point of origin for imports;

Whereas the United States and Canada cooperate extensively within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM), and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD);

Whereas Canada has been a critical ally of the United States in the global war on terror, deploying approximately 2,800 Canadian troops in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from 2006–2011, the fifth-largest national contingent in the ISAF;

Whereas 158 Canadian Armed Forces personnel bravely gave their lives while participating in the ISAF in Afghanistan;

Whereas Canada has 830 Canadian Armed Forces personnel currently serving in the Middle East in support of the United States-led coalition to counter the Islamic State;

Whereas longstanding bilateral border security cooperation between the United States and Canada protects vital United States security interests while promoting trade and travel;

Whereas the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, Beyond the Border Initiative, United States-Canada NEXUS

Trusted Traveler Program, Border Enforcement Security Taskforces (BEST), Shiprider Integrated Cross Border Maritime Law Enforcement program, Cross Border Crime Forum, Integrated Border Enforcement Teams, and United States preclearance operations conducted at eight Canadian airports enhance United States-Canadian border security efforts;

Whereas Canada is the world's fifth-largest petroleum producer in the world and is the United States largest foreign supplier of energy, including oil, uranium, natural gas, and electricity;

Whereas Canada is the largest source of imported oil for United States refineries and while the United States produces 90 percent of the natural gas it uses, of the remaining natural gas that the United States imports, 97 percent comes from Canada;

Whereas Canada is a net exporter of electricity to the United States, with more than 30 active electricity transmission connectors between the two countries;

Whereas Canada is a strategic leader in international affairs, a member of the G7 and G20, and an important voice for democratic principles, market-oriented policies, and human rights in the United Nations, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Organization of American States; and

Whereas, on February 13, 2017, President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada held their first official meeting and reaffirmed the importance of the United States-Canadian relationship: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) reaffirms its robust commitment to the crit-
2 ical importance of the United States-Canadian part-
3 nership;

4 (2) supports stronger trade relations with the
5 Government of Canada and the creation of more
6 American jobs;

7 (3) encourages greater security collaboration in
8 the areas of defense, border security, cyber-security,
9 and Arctic security; and

10 (4) supports an increased focus on energy secu-
11 rity through greater energy infrastructure integra-
12 tion, including oil and natural gas and renewable
13 sources, planning, and coordination.

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 357

OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas history, proximity, commerce, security, and shared democratic values underpin a close relationship between the United States and Canada;

Whereas this year marks 150 years of the Canadian Confederation;

Whereas Americans and Canadians have the longest international border and one of the largest commercial relationships in the world, with \$1.7 billion of trade and nearly 400,000 people crossing the shared border daily;

Whereas Canada is the United States second-largest trading partner and the largest export destination for United States goods and services, and a majority of States of the United States consider Canada their top export destination, with 15 States counting Canada as their top point of origin for imports;

Whereas the United States and Canada cooperate extensively within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and through a “Tri-Command Framework” with United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM), Canadian Joint Operations Command (CJOC), and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD);

Whereas Canada has been a critical ally of the United States in the global war on terror, deploying approximately 2,800 Canadian troops in the NATO-led International

Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan from 2006–2011, the fifth-largest national contingent in the ISAF;

Whereas 158 Canadian Armed Forces personnel bravely gave their lives while participating in the ISAF in Afghanistan;

Whereas Canada has 830 Canadian Armed Forces personnel currently serving in the Middle East in support of the United States-led coalition to counter the Islamic State;

Whereas longstanding bilateral border security cooperation between the United States and Canada protects vital United States security interests while promoting trade and travel;

Whereas the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, Beyond the Border Initiative, United States-Canada NEXUS Trusted Traveler Program, Border Enforcement Security Taskforces (BEST), Shiprider Integrated Cross Border Maritime Law Enforcement program, Cross Border Crime Forum, Integrated Border Enforcement Teams, and United States preclearance operations conducted at eight Canadian airports enhance United States-Canadian border security efforts;

Whereas Canada is the world's sixth-largest petroleum producer in the world and is the United States largest foreign supplier of energy, including oil, uranium, natural gas, and electricity;

Whereas Canada is the largest source of imported oil for United States refineries and while the United States produces 90 percent of the natural gas it uses, of the remaining natural gas that the United States imports, 97 percent comes from Canada;

Whereas Canada is a net exporter of electricity to the United States, with more than 30 active electricity transmission connectors between the two countries;

Whereas Canada is a strategic leader in international affairs, a member of the G7 and G20, and an important voice for democratic principles, market-oriented policies, and human rights in the United Nations, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Organization of American States; and

Whereas, on February 13, 2017, President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada held their first official meeting and reaffirmed the importance of the United States-Canadian relationship; Now, therefore, be it



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 359

Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. ROSELEHTINEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. SCHNEIDER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members.

Whereas in July 2012 a Hizballah terror attack in Bulgaria killed five Israeli tourists and one Bulgarian;

Whereas in March 2013 a Hizballah operative in Cyprus was convicted of planning terror attacks after admitting he was a member of Hizballah, was trained in the use of weapons, and used a dual Swedish-Lebanese passport to travel around Europe on missions as a courier and scout for Hizballah;

Whereas though such Hizballah operative was convicted on criminal-related charges, authorities had to drop ter-

rorism charges against him because Hizballah was not listed as a terrorist organization;

Whereas the European Union (EU) in July 2013 designated Hizballah’s so-called “military wing”—but not the organization as a whole—as a terrorist organization;

Whereas despite restrictions put on Hizballah since the designation of its military wing, the group continues to conduct illicit narco-trafficking, money laundering, and weapons trafficking throughout Europe;

Whereas EU designation of Hizballah’s military wing has enabled substantial and important cooperation between United States and European authorities aimed at uncovering and thwarting Hizballah’s international criminal activities, such as drug trafficking and money laundering, the proceeds of which are used to purchase weapons and advance Hizballah’s terrorist aims;

Whereas in December 2015 the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102) was signed into law in the United States, broadening financial sector sanctions against Hizballah to compel foreign financial institutions to refrain from supporting the terrorist group;

Whereas in February 2016 the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection partnered with counterparts in France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium to arrest top leaders of the European cell of Hizballah’s External Security Organization Business Affairs Component—a cell that engages in international money laundering and drug trafficking to support Hizballah’s terror activities;

Whereas for many years, the Governments of Iran and Syria have been the prime sponsors of Hizballah, harboring, financing, training, and arming the group;

Whereas Department of Defense officials estimate that Iran provides as much as \$200,000,000 per year to Hizballah in the form of financial and logistical support, weapons, and training;

Whereas Hizballah now has an arsenal of approximately 150,000 missiles and rockets, many of which can reach deep into Israel, at a time when Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah is threatening to attack and invade Israel;

Whereas Hizballah fighters have been supporting the Assad regime in Syria, often leading operations in the conflict which has left more than 465,000 dead;

Whereas Russia has established fusion centers in Syria to coordinate with Iran, the Assad regime, and Hizballah, and Russian air cover has given Hizballah an advantage on the battlefield against Syria rebels;

Whereas the conflict in Syria has fueled a migrant crisis that has brought nearly 400,000 migrants and refugees to Europe in 2016 and 2017 alone;

Whereas Lebanon continues to be plagued by instability and violence;

Whereas due to Hizballah's actions in Syria, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has carried out retaliatory terrorist attacks in Beirut;

Whereas the Lebanese Armed Forces, the legitimate security establishment of the country as set forth in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), are strug-

gling to control the flow of weapons and Hizballah fighters at its borders;

Whereas Hizballah trains and provides weapons for Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, further destabilizing the region and perpetuating violence in those countries;

Whereas in October 2012 Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem stated that “[Hizballah does not] have a military wing and a political one . . . Every element of Hizballah, from commanders to members as well as our various capabilities, are in the service of the resistance”;

Whereas the United States, Canada, Israel, and the Netherlands have designated Hizballah in its entirety as a terror organization, while Australia and New Zealand have applied the designation to the organization’s so-called military wing;

Whereas in March 2016 the Gulf Cooperation Council, the bloc of six Gulf Arab nations, formally branded Hizballah, in its entirety, a terrorist organization, and the League of Arab States shortly thereafter adopted the same designation;

Whereas in April 2016 the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, denounced Hizballah’s “terrorist acts” in the Middle East;

Whereas Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah said in May 2017 that the conflict in Syria had entered a “new and critical phase” in which Damascus, Moscow, Tehran, and Hezbollah were “in more harmony politically and militarily than at any time”; and

Whereas in May 2017 the United States and Saudi Arabia sanctioned Hashem Saffiedine, a member of Hizballah’s executive council which oversees the organization’s polit-

ical, organizational, social and educational activities, for his involvement in terrorist activity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses appreciation to the European
3 Union (EU) for the progress made in countering
4 Hizballah since the EU designated Hizballah's mili-
5 tary wing as a terrorist organization;

6 (2) applauds and expresses support for the con-
7 tinued, increased cooperation between the United
8 States and the EU in thwarting Hizballah's criminal
9 and terrorist activities;

10 (3) supports transcontinental efforts within Eu-
11 rope to share intelligence information among police
12 and security services to facilitate greater cooperation
13 in tracking, apprehending, and prosecuting terror-
14 ists, foreign fighters, and potential offenders;

15 (4) encourages the EU to, whenever possible
16 and applicable with due process standards, imple-
17 ment sanctions against Hizballah-affiliated terrorists
18 in tandem with the United States; and

19 (5) urges the EU to designate Hizballah in its
20 entirety as a terrorist organization and increase
21 pressure on the group, including through—

22 (A) facilitating better cross-border coopera-
23 tion between EU members in combating
24 Hizballah;

1 (B) issuing arrest warrants against mem-
2 bers and active supporters of Hizballah;

3 (C) freezing Hizballah's assets in Europe,
4 including those masquerading as charities; and

5 (D) prohibiting fundraising activities in
6 support of Hizballah.

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 359
OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH OF FLORIDA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas in July 2012 a Hizballah terror attack in Bulgaria killed five Israeli tourists and one Bulgarian;

Whereas in March 2013 a Hizballah operative in Cyprus was convicted of planning terror attacks after admitting he was a member of Hizballah, was trained in the use of weapons, and used a dual Swedish-Lebanese passport to travel around Europe on missions as a courier and scout for Hizballah;

Whereas though such Hizballah operative was convicted on criminal-related charges, authorities had to drop terrorism charges against him because Hizballah was not listed as a terrorist organization;

Whereas the European Union (EU) in July 2013 designated Hizballah's so-called "military wing"—but not the organization as a whole—as a terrorist organization;

Whereas despite restrictions put on Hizballah since the designation of its military wing, the group continues to conduct illicit narco-trafficking, money laundering, and weapons trafficking throughout Europe;

Whereas EU designation of Hizballah's military wing has enabled substantial and important cooperation between United States and European authorities aimed at uncovering and thwarting Hizballah's international criminal activities, such as drug trafficking and money laundering,

the proceeds of which are used to purchase weapons and advance Hizballah's terrorist aims;

Whereas in December 2015 the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–102) was signed into law in the United States, broadening financial sector sanctions against Hizballah to compel foreign financial institutions to refrain from supporting the terrorist group;

Whereas in February 2016 the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection partnered with counterparts in France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium to arrest top leaders of the European cell of Hizballah's External Security Organization Business Affairs Component—a cell that engages in international money laundering and drug trafficking to support Hizballah's terror activities;

Whereas for many years, the Governments of Iran and Syria have been the prime sponsors of Hizballah, harboring, financing, training, and arming the group;

Whereas Department of Defense officials estimate that Iran provides as much as \$200,000,000 per year to Hizballah in the form of financial and logistical support, weapons, and training;

Whereas Hizballah now has an arsenal of approximately 150,000 missiles and rockets, many of which can reach deep into Israel, at a time when Hizballah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah is threatening to attack and invade Israel;

Whereas Hizballah fighters have been supporting the Assad regime in Syria, often leading operations in the conflict which has left more than 465,000 dead;

Whereas Russia has established fusion centers in Syria to coordinate with Iran, the Assad regime, and Hizballah, and Russian air cover has given Hizballah an advantage on the battlefield against Syria rebels;

Whereas Hizballah's destabilizing actions in the conflict in Syria has fueled a migrant crisis that has brought nearly 400,000 migrants and refugees to Europe in 2016 and 2017 alone;

Whereas Lebanon continues to be plagued by instability and violence;

Whereas due to Hizballah's actions in Syria, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has carried out retaliatory terrorist attacks in Beirut;

Whereas the Lebanese Armed Forces, the legitimate security establishment of the country as set forth in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), are struggling to control the flow of weapons and Hizballah fighters at its borders;

Whereas Hizballah trains and provides weapons for Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, further destabilizing the region and perpetuating violence in those countries;

Whereas in October 2012 Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem stated that "[Hizballah does not] have a military wing and a political one . . . Every element of Hizballah, from commanders to members as well as our various capabilities, are in the service of the resistance";

Whereas the United States, Canada, Israel, and the Netherlands have designated Hizballah in its entirety as a terror organization, while Australia and New Zealand have applied the designation to the organization's so-called military wing;

Whereas in March 2016 the Gulf Cooperation Council, the bloc of six Gulf Arab nations, formally branded Hizballah, in its entirety, a terrorist organization, and the League of Arab States shortly thereafter adopted the same designation;

Whereas in April 2016 the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, denounced Hizballah's "terrorist acts" in the Middle East;

Whereas Hizballah Secretary General Nasrallah said in May 2017 that the conflict in Syria had entered a "new and critical phase" in which Damascus, Moscow, Tehran, and Hezbollah were "in more harmony politically and militarily than at any time";

Whereas the United States has designated Hizballah's Foreign Relations Department, which has representatives around the world, as a Specially Designated National, subject to United States primary and secondary sanctions;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury has diligently added persons and entities to the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists who have provided material support to the Hizballah terrorist organization, thereby hampering its financing and logistical capabilities; and

Whereas in May 2017 the United States and Saudi Arabia sanctioned Hashem Saffiedine, a member of Hizballah's executive council which oversees the organization's political, organizational, social and educational activities, for his involvement in terrorist activity: Now, therefore, be it



115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 449

Urging the Government of Kenya and Kenya's political parties to respect democratic principles and hold credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in August 2017.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2017

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. BASS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Urging the Government of Kenya and Kenya's political parties to respect democratic principles and hold credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in August 2017.

Whereas the United States has deep interests in Kenya's democratic stability and regional leadership, and a free and fair election in Kenya holds regional significance as an example for other African countries with elections scheduled in the near future;

Whereas Kenya's general elections are scheduled for August 8, 2017;

Whereas electoral violence in 2007 and 2008 resulted in the deaths of at least 1,300 people and the displacement of 600,000, effectively paralyzing the country and the wider

region for more than two months before the creation of a power-sharing government;

Whereas Kenyans adopted a new Constitution in 2010 that sought to devolve power to 47 counties and their elected governors and local representatives;

Whereas the public confidence in the electoral process is critical both to Kenya's continued democratic progress and to ensuring transparency in electoral preparations, and is vital for the success of the August 8 elections;

Whereas despite having a permissive legal environment, the Government of Kenya has taken actions to limit democratic space for civil society and media organizations, which could adversely affect their contributions to a credible, peaceful election and broader democratic consolidation;

Whereas there have been deeply concerning instances of hate speech by all sides, inciting supporters to ethnic violence as a means by which to gain electoral advantage, intimidate electoral rivals, or suppress voter turnout; and

Whereas the political parties, monitoring groups, and the media have the legal authority to record polling station results and tallies at the constituency and national levels in order to ensure that the process is perceived as honest and transparent: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) calls upon Kenya to—

3 (A) hold credible, peaceful, free, and fair

4 Presidential elections in August 2017 in order

5 to advance Kenya's democratic consolidation

6 and promote stability in the broader region; and

1 (B) condemn in the strongest terms the
2 use of hate speech and the incitement of vio-
3 lence by political candidates, the media, or any
4 Kenyan citizens;

5 (2) calls upon Kenyan citizens to peacefully
6 participate in the general elections and seek to re-
7 solve any disputes over results through the legal sys-
8 tem;

9 (3) calls upon Kenyan political candidates at
10 the national, county, and local levels to respect the
11 Electoral Code of Conduct and the Political Party
12 Code of Conduct;

13 (4) encourages political parties, civil society,
14 and the media to act responsibly with their parallel
15 vote tabulations so as not to usurp the role of the
16 electoral commission as the official source for declar-
17 ing official election results;

18 (5) encourages Kenyan civil society organiza-
19 tions to continue providing critical early warning
20 and response measures to mitigate election-related
21 violence and further strengthen democratic proe-
22 cesses;

23 (6) commends the key role the faith-based com-
24 munity has played in ensuring a peaceful pre- and
25 post-election environment through periodically con-

1 vening the Multi-Sectoral Forum to deliberate on
2 matters of governance, election management, and
3 looming insecurity;

4 (7) supports efforts by the Department of
5 State, including the Bureau of Conflict and Sta-
6 bilization Operations, the Bureau of Democracy,
7 Human Rights, and Labor, and the Bureau of Afri-
8 can Affairs, and the United States Agency for Inter-
9 national Development (USAID) to assist election-re-
10 lated preparations in Kenya, including programs fo-
11 cused on conflict mitigation;

12 (8) strongly encourages the Administration to
13 appoint an Assistant Secretary of State for African
14 Affairs in order to bolster diplomatic engagement
15 across the African continent, including with the Gov-
16 ernment of Kenya, Kenya's political parties, and the
17 donor community, which has historically been critical
18 during Kenya's elections; and

19 (9) calls upon the United States and Kenya's
20 other international partners, especially election-fo-
21 cused nongovernmental organizations, to continue to
22 support Kenya's efforts to address the remaining
23 electoral preparation challenges and identify gaps in
24 which additional resources or diplomatic engagement

- 1 could make important contributions to the conduct
- 2 of the elections.



Chairman ROYCE. I now recognize myself to speak on today's business.

I recognize here the good work of Representative Deutch on this House Resolution 359. This urges the European Union to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Hezbollah has one leadership, fungible finances, and a singular hostile mission. All its branches and operations serve its terrorist agenda and it is dangerous to try and distinguish among its arms. We must work with our allies to deprive this terrorist organization of its financial support and its logistical support.

H.R. 2061 reauthorizes important provisions of the North Korea Human Rights Act. This is the decades-old U.S. humanitarian policy that provides much needed assistance to North Korean defectors and to refugees.

It also promotes freedom of information inside North Korea through radio broadcasting, an issue on which this committee has a long history of promoting critical reforms. As the Kim regime desperately tries to preserve its monopoly on information, these broadcasts are critical to empowering the people of North Korea, and I want to thank Chairman Emeritus Ros-Lehtinen and Asia Subcommittee Chairman Yoho for their work on this bill's provisions.

House Resolution 311 recognizes the growing importance of the ASEAN nations. For 40 years, the U.S. has expanded its cooperation with this collection of 10 Southeast Asian nations. It has a combined economy of \$2.5 trillion. Southeast Asia represents a major opportunity for strengthening U.S. commerce and security interests across that region.

On the other side of the globe, the situation in Venezuela continues to deteriorate and President Maduro continues to dig in with plans to rewrite Venezuela's constitution and give himself full dictatorial powers. This would undo any semblance of democratic order.

I want to thank Mr. DeSantis for his leadership on House Resolution 259, which echoes strong words and actions from the administration including yesterday's sanctions—these are sanctions on certain individuals in Venezuela who are part of that dictatorship—to warn Maduro against his illegal efforts to rewrite the constitution.

As we look at the crisis in Venezuela, we must be mindful that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has been decidedly unhelpful to regional efforts to respond. Indeed, he has been among the corrupt few trying to bolster President Maduro, not to mention pursuing his own undemocratic consolidation of power at home.

So I want to thank Chairman Emeritus Ros-Lehtinen for authoring H.R. 1918. This measure requires U.S. representatives to international financial institutions to oppose any loan that benefits the Government of Nicaragua unless we can certify that Nicaragua is taking steps to reestablish free and transparent elections and respect basic human and democratic rights.

I want to thank Chairman Duncan of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee for his leadership on these measures and his resolution reaffirming the U.S. Canada relationship. Canada continues to be one of our most important allies and a vital trading partner, and

House Resolution 357 encourages even greater commercial collaboration.

Mr. Duncan will be leading a delegation of lawmakers to Canada in September for the U.S.-Canada IPG. So we wish him well.

I am also proud to support Representative Chabot's bill to protect girls' access to education in vulnerable settings. With many developing countries hosting large numbers of refugees for longer stretches of time, we are seeing a concerning trend of more children out of school due to conflict. These children, and girls in particular, face an increased risk of exploitation and less hope for their future.

So I am pleased to support H.R. 2408, which authorizes U.S. support for improving girls' access to education in conflict settings.

I also want to thank Mr. Smith, chairman of the Africa Subcommittee, for his work on House Resolution 128. While we recognize our longstanding partnership with Ethiopia, we must also stress the importance of that government's respect for human rights and democratic principles, including the need for Ethiopia to take tangible steps to ensure opposition voices are protected, are respected, and are welcomed.

And I would also like to thank my colleague, Representative Coffman, for his dedication and leadership in ensuring that this resolution be considered today.

And, lastly, I want to thank Ranking Member Engel for his timely resolution underscoring the importance of Kenya's upcoming elections. As a critical leader in the region, this election holds important significance as an example for other African countries with their upcoming elections.

I understand two of our colleagues—Representative Bass and Representative Frankel—will travel to observe these elections next month, and we look forward to monitoring the results and wish Kenya the best as they prepare for this momentous occasion.

I now recognize our ranking member, Mr. Engel, for his remarks.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for calling the markup. We have a number of good bipartisan measures and I am glad to support all of them.

I would like to start with the measure I authored which sends a strong message as Kenya prepares for its next elections and I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this resolution up today. I also am grateful to Mr. Smith of New Jersey and Ms. Bass of California, the chair and ranking members of the Africa Subcommittee, who are lead co-sponsors of this legislation.

Kenya is an important partner of the United States. This is a country that promotes regional stability and serves as an economic and humanitarian hub for East Africa. We want Kenya to remain strong and that's why the State Department and USAID have long supported credible, open elections in that country.

This has been a challenging time for Kenya. A decade ago, a wave of violence following elections and, in 2013, troubling irregularities plagued the voting process there.

In advance of the election scheduled for August 8th, this resolution calls upon Kenya to hold credible, peaceful, free, and fair elections and condemn in the strongest terms hate speech and the in-

citement of violence by political candidates, the media, or any Kenyan citizen.

It also calls upon the United States and Kenya's other international partners to continue to support Kenya's efforts to address the remaining electoral preparation challenges and to identify gaps where additional resources or diplomatic engagement could make important contributions to the conduct of the elections.

This measure isn't about taking sides in Kenya's politics but instead reaffirms the importance of our partnership with Kenya and our support for the people of that country as they go to the polls.

I wish Ms. Bass and Ms. Frankel well. I am proud that they are representing us during that election and I ask all members to support this resolution.

I would like to say a few words about some other measures we are conducting today. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the North Korean Human Rights Act introduced by my friend, Representative Ros-Lehtinen. This measure authorizes the current law until 2022, extending American efforts to promote the human rights of North Koreans and making important adjustments to U.S. broadcasting and other efforts to get unbiased information in to the people of North Korea.

These are timely changes as we are all very concerned by North Korea's advancing weapons capability. I know the chairman has done a lot of work with Korea. I have been there twice. I don't think we are going to go in the short future. But I am glad to support this measure. I think it sends a very strong message to the North Korean regime.

I am also glad to support another resolution from Chairman Smith calling on authorities in Ethiopia to lift the state of emergency and end the excessive use of force by Ethiopian security forces, urging protestors to refrain from violence, and calling on the administration to hold accountable individuals responsible for gross human rights violations.

I am grateful to Mr. DeSantis for his resolution highlighting the devastating political, economic, and humanitarian prices in Venezuela. With its massive energy resources, Venezuela should be one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

It marks a profoundly sad day when our Congress and others and the international community must consider how to most effectively provide food and medicine to the Venezuelan people.

But that's the deeply troubling record of the Maduro government, and we have all been very vocal on that, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen probably the most vocal and right on the money, so she speak, through the years by talking about Maduro and his predecessor, Mr. Chavez, both of whom have run that country and are running that country to the ground.

Chairman Duncan of our Western Hemisphere Subcommittee has offered a good resolution reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada. I am particularly pleased that this resolution takes note of extensive cooperation between our two countries within NATO at a time when our own administration has questioned the importance of this alliance.

Next, I would again like to thank Representative Ros-Lehtinen and also Representative Sires for introducing the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act, also known as the NICA Act.

President Ortega and his lackeys have shown zero regard for democracy and the rule of law in Nicaragua. This legislation is an important step in holding the Nicaraguan Government accountable by opposing loans to these corrupt leaders while taking precautions not to make things worse for the many Nicaraguans who are already suffering in what is the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

I remember when I was the chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee and we visited Ortega in Nicaragua, and we knew there were problems then. There are certainly even greater problems now.

I am also glad to support a measure by Mr. Deutch of Florida urging the EU to name the Hezbollah organization as a terrorist organization and put greater pressure on Hezbollah fund-raising within Europe.

In July 2013, the European Union announced that it would consider the military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization after a spike of terrorist activity in Europe.

This came after a wave of attacks and attempted attacks perpetrated by Hezbollah in Europe. The United States does not make the distinction, and rightfully so, between the military and political wings of Hezbollah and, frankly, neither does Hezbollah. We consider the whole organization to be a terrorist organization and the European Union should do the same.

I appreciate Representative Castro and Wagner's leadership on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which we call ASEAN, both in offering this measure and launching the Congressional ASEAN Caucus. This resolution recognizes the 50 years ASEAN has promoted stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia and underscores why this institution and, most importantly, the countries that make it up, matter to America's economy and security.

And lastly, I am glad to support a bill by Representatives Chabot and Kelly to help improve access to education to displaced children, especially girls.

Around the world, nearly 4 million displaced children don't have access to public education. We know, obviously, this disadvantage can set these young people back for the rest of their lives. So this bill would make it a priority for the State Department and USAID to work with multilateral organizations with civil society and with private sector partners to help these vulnerable young people access education and get on a better path forward.

I am grateful to both of my colleagues for introducing this measure and I am grateful to members on both sides of the aisle for all their hard work, their willingness to collaborate, and their commitment to advancing good, bipartisan legislation that enhances American leadership and security.

Mr. Chairman, this has been a hallmark of our committee under your leadership and I am delighted to play a part in it.

Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go now to Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel, for bringing forth these various bipartisan measures before us today.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1918, the Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act (NICA) of 2017 is a bipartisan bill that I authored alongside my colleague, Albio Sires. I am also thankful that Mr. Duncan, chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, has also supported the legislation. The bill aims to press the Ortega regime to improve its human rights practices to address its problems with corruption within the government and increase its transparency.

And until the government starts implementing some reforms, there should be no reason for the United States to support the Ortega regime receiving more cash while it continues to violate human rights, ignores the rule of law, and perpetuates fraudulent elections. The U.S Congress has passed bills which have become law, imposing similar conditions on El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala, and they have been effective in moving these countries in the right direction.

The NICA Act seeks to do the same with Nicaragua. If the electoral system is not changed in Nicaragua, the fraud orchestrated by Ortega will continue, and let us not forget that Ortega invited the Russians into Nicaragua, has let them set up operations there to undermine U.S. national security interests and it is Ortega who has been leading the charge at the Organization of American States to undermine our efforts to hold the Venezuelan regime accountable.

So passing this measure is the right thing to do because the time to take action in support of the people of Nicaragua and their democratic future is now.

The House already passed a similar version of this bill last Congress. Let us make sure that this becomes law.

And the next bill, Mr. Chairman, the Reauthorization of North Korea Human Rights Act—I first authored it in 2004. It has been an important piece of our U.S.-North Korea policy ever since. I am proud to lead the law's reauthorization in 2008 and then again in 2012, and I am thankful to Ranking Member Engel for being our Democratic lead on this bill.

Thank you to Chairman Yoho and Ranking Member Sherman for also joining us in introducing this measure. This bill ensures that essential tools for promoting North Korea human rights continues to be available, including grants for advancing human rights, democracy, and rule of law, humanitarian assistance for North Korean refugees, defectors, migrants, orphans, and women victims of trafficking, and continued reporting by the special envoy for North Korea human rights issues.

I also want to thank Chairman Yoho for his leadership and his important amendment which makes some valuable additions to the bill, including adding new methods of communication so that North Koreans can be aware of their inherent rights and their absent freedoms.

I want to briefly express my support for Ted Deutch's and Gus Bilirakis' resolution, House Resolution 359. Because the idea that somehow a terrorist group can be split into a military wing and a

political and that somehow one part is a terror group yet another is not is beyond absurd.

Iran is a state sponsor of terror. Hezbollah is its biggest tool. There can be no justification for this bifurcation.

And, finally, briefly to express my support for Ron DeSantis' resolution in support of the Venezuelan people. Mr. DeSantis has been a real champion in this.

The deteriorating situation in Venezuela is unacceptable and I am grateful that the administration took action yesterday to sanction regime officials in anticipation of the illegal Constituent Assembly planned for this Sunday.

We have to keep the pressure on Maduro, staying in solidarity with the people of Venezuela as they continue with their quest for freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights. So thank you to Mr. DeSantis.

And I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ROYCE. I now recognize Mr. Connolly to speak on today's bills.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to support all of the bills in front of us en bloc and congratulate all of our colleagues for their fine efforts.

I thank you and Mr. Engel for your leadership of bringing these bipartisan measures before us. Would that all committees in the Congress could have such comity as we have today.

I would like to speak to one of those bills in particular, which is H.R. 2061, the North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017. I want to thank my friend, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, for introducing this bill, the Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

The North Korean regime has conducted 17 ballistic missile tests in 2017 alone, including the July 4th launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching Alaska. The United States, the Republic of Korea, and other regional stakeholders must demonstrate a commitment to addressing this threat.

At the same time, it is vital that our North Korea policy be informed with an understanding that there are human victims of the ongoing conflict on the peninsula who reside on both sides of the 38th Parallel. This bill responds to that imperative by reauthorizing the Human Rights Act of 2004 and prioritizing the protection of North Korean refugees and defectors.

I want to thank Ms. Ros-Lehtinen for working with me on an amendment we adopted to H.R. 2061 that requires a report on ongoing or planned efforts regarding the repatriation of members of the United States Armed Forces, the reunification of Korean Americans with relatives in North Korea, and an assessment of security risks posed by travel to North Korea for U.S. citizens. And, of course, we now have a ban on such travel.

The division of North and South Korea along the 38th Parallel offers one of the world's most striking dichotomies. Yet, on both sides of the DMZ resides a shared pain. The pain is that of families ripped apart by the Korean War and an enduring division of one people into two countries.

Reunions are a welcome respite from that separation but, in the end, provide yet another reminder that family reunification on the peninsula is all too fleeting. Many of these Americans, more than

100,000 according to the last estimate, have been waiting to reunite with their family members in North Korea, in some cases since the armistice or the cease fire of the Korean War 60 years ago. Too many have already passed away without realizing that fervent hope that they would see the faces of their loved ones one more time.

This amendment would require an update on efforts to conduct family reunification for those Korean-Americans. It would also help heal old wounds by addressing the issue of repatriation of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been missing since the Korean War 60 years ago.

I thank the chair, thank all of my colleagues for their hard efforts, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

I now recognize Mr. Smith to speak on today's bills.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me, first of all, thank you for co-sponsoring, and Eliot Engel, a resolution that Karen Bass and I put together—H. Res. 128—and I want to thank Mike Coffman for his leadership—it has been extraordinary—on this resolution as well. Thank you, Mike.

This resolution is like a mirror held up to the Government of Ethiopia on how others see them and it is intended to encourage them to move on reforms.

Ethiopia is an important ally and partner in international peacekeeping. However, the continuing violations of human rights are absolutely unacceptable.

I would note that the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices couldn't be more clear, put out by the U.S. Department of State, and they cite serious human rights violations including arbitrary arrests, killings, and torture committed by security forces, restrictions on freedom of expression and the freedom of association, politically-motivated trials, harassment, and intimidation of opposition members and journalists. And when you read the report, it is like an indictment against the Government of Ethiopia.

Let me say to my colleagues that just yesterday I sent a letter to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on behalf of Demssew Abebe to get his family humanitarian parole to enter the United States and to remove the threats expressed to them by government forces.

Demssew was a track star, a world-class track star, who was tortured by the Ethiopian security forces in a way that made his ability to run go away. They tortured him on his feet so he couldn't run.

I mean, that is so despicable and it is just part of what I think is a very malevolent attitude toward people who disagree with them on human rights.

I spoke to him in person on this. We had him at a press conference, and again, his story was absolutely compelling.

Another victim of government torture, Abaguya Deki, testified at our subcommittee's hearing on Ethiopia on March 9th. Abaguya is disabled and headed a government organization for disabled persons in Ethiopia.

When he refused to join the ruling party or to sign off on what he described as the misuse of donated equipment for disabled peo-

ple, he was jailed and made to crawl around his cell without his wheelchair, and in a subsequent imprisonment he was taken from his cell and left in a forest without his wheelchair to die, vulnerable to wild animals. Fortunately, he was able to set a fire and was saved by some kind people who spotted the fire and came to his aid.

These are not actions of a government that respects human rights as they say they do and they have a very good PR campaign, I have to admit. But it is all about the deeds, not the words, and the deeds, again, continue to be, I think, egregious.

My staff and I—Greg Simpkins and I—first traveled on one of the many trips to Ethiopia in 2005 and I can tell you, we had been trying to get this government to respect fundamental human rights and one of the findings or the sense of Congress statements is that we want individuals to be held accountable for gross violations of human rights in Ethiopia through appropriate mechanisms, including using the new Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act to hold those individuals to account.

Again, I want to thank the 50 members how have co-sponsored and I do hope the members will support the resolution.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Ted Deutch of Florida.

Mr. DEUTCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to join my colleagues in expressing support for all of the measures before us today and to join all who have already expressed their appreciation for the bipartisan leadership of this committee from our chairman and our ranking member.

I would like to especially thank the chairman for bringing forward my resolution urging the EU to designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and I thank the members of this committee on both sides of the aisle who have co-sponsored this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, in 2013 the EU designated Hezbollah's military wing but not its political wing as a terrorist organization. This is a false distinction. Hamas in Gaza, ISIS in Iraq and Syria—they both administer government services. But the EU, no one would ever suggest that they aren't terrorist organizations.

Hezbollah is a terrorist organization—one unified terrorist organization. It has one leader, Hasan Nasrallah, a U.S.-designated terrorist, who even before becoming leader of Hezbollah was directly involved in attacks, hostage taking, and airline hijacking.

Hezbollah was responsible for the 1983 bombings in Beirut, one on the U.S. Embassy that killed 17 Americans and 46 others, and one on the U.S. Marine barracks that killed 241 American Marines and dozens of French service members. Hezbollah killed 23 more Americans the following year in an attack on the U.S. Embassy annex in Beirut, and then in 1985 summarily executed a U.S. Navy diver during the hijacking of TWA 847.

Hezbollah is also responsible for the 1992 Israeli Embassy bombing in Argentina, which killed 29 people, and the 1994 bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people. In 1996, Hezbollah killed 19 more U.S. service members in the Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, and 5 years ago this month a Hezbollah suicide bomber blew up a bus in Bulgaria, killing six Israelis and Bulgarians. And thousands of Hezbollah fighters at the direction of Iran have now been sent to Syria to prop up the brutal

Assad regime, which is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths.

Iran's leaders seek to cement Hezbollah's hold on parts of Syria so there is a direct line to Hezbollah in Lebanon and to add to its arsenal over 150,000 rockets at every corner of Israel.

This is not an organization that should be allowed to skirt the consequences of its terrorist activity by parading as a political entity.

Last year, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab League both designated Hezbollah a terrorist organization. I urge our European friends to take note and to finally designate Hezbollah without artificial distinction as a terrorist organization.

The EU's designation of Hezbollah's military wing has already enabled substantial cooperation with the United States to uncover and to thwart Hezbollah's international criminal activities including drug trafficking, counterfeiting, and money laundering, and we appreciate that cooperation. The full designation, though, would allow for significantly improved cooperation to freeze Hezbollah's assets in Europe and prohibit fund-raising activities in support of Hezbollah, all to help prevent more devastating terror attacks by this terrorist organization.

I urge my colleagues to join me in sending this important message to our European friends and allies, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman ROYCE. I recognize Mr. Rohrabacher of California to speak on today's bills.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much. I rise in support of the bills that have been presented to us today. I especially would like to focus on a number of areas.

Ethiopia, for example—I want to congratulate Chairman Smith on a great job of analyzing the type of tyranny that is evident in Ethiopia. This is a corrupt regime that is also oppressive and brutal with its own people.

Let me note that its corruption spills beyond its own borders. We have U.S. citizens whose property was confiscated by the Ethiopian Government and, arrogantly, the Ethiopian Government expects the U.S. to continue in a good relationship with it and perhaps even giving some type of aid to Ethiopia when it actually has stolen property that it refuses to give back to U.S. citizens.

I know that personally because we have a very prominent family in Orange County, California, whose property was confiscated and after continuing to try they get nowhere after years of attempting.

But that property damage and property theft is nowhere near as offensive to our values as is the murder and repression and the torture that goes on in Ethiopia. What we have is a dictatorship that knows no bounds. So I appreciate this bill.

I also would like to note that Venezuela keeps sinking further, further into the depths of tyranny and injustice. Let us hope that while the situation is still fluid enough that we stand with the people of Venezuela in creating a real democracy there rather than these tough guy leftists who love Fidel Castro and other lowlife dictators who then serve as their model.

And finally, about Hezbollah—I identify myself with the remarks that were just made by my colleague about Hezbollah.

Look, it is time for the Palestinians to understand peace is in their hands and they have the ability to make peace with Israel. There was a two-state solution that was accepted and there was great hopes for that. But it is the continuing violence against Israel—organized violence against Israel that is destroying any chances for peace in that region, and we cannot blame Israel for retaliating against forces that are killing their own people and shooting rockets into their country.

So today we are reaffirming that Hezbollah should be designated as a terrorist organization as it continues to push for war and continues to kill innocent people.

Let me just note that there was a hearing here—I believe it was yesterday—in which we were talking about Qatar, and one of the things they said about Qatar was the good was that they helped rebuild destruction in Gaza. That is not a pro-peace solution and in fact Qatar's rebuilding those buildings that had been destroyed in retaliation for the missile attacks and rocket attacks on Israel only encourages more missile attacks on Israel.

So Hezbollah and Hamas and the other Palestinian organizations that are active in that part of the world, we must be very clear that we want peace. We want them to make peace with the rest of the world and they are not doing so and they are conducting themselves in a way that they should become the pariahs of decent peoples and countries throughout the world.

That whole notion is something that runs through this list of resolutions. I want to thank the chairman and I want to thank the ranking member for helping focus this committee with this—you know, with our basically bipartisan support on these type of values.

So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I rise in support of these resolutions.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go to Lois Frankel of Florida on today's bills.

Ms. FRANKEL. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I want to thank you, the ranking member, and all the members who have participated in putting together these very fine bills, which I proudly co-sponsor some of them.

I really wanted to make a comment on three of those. The first, on urging the European Union to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members, so I am going to try—I am going to start with an analogy. It is probably not the best one but maybe my colleague here can help me figure out a better one.

But I came in here today and I saw a bottle of water, which is pretty good. You can drink the water but when you think about it what is water made out of? Hydrogen and oxygen. Is that right?

So, to me, and I don't think you can have water without the hydrogen or the oxygen, and to me this is what this resolution is.

I know it is an analogy. I am not sure if it is that great. But I think—you all tell me, all right? Yes. You know, to try to separate the political and the military wing of Hezbollah, to me, is like saying, well, you know, separating the hydrogen and oxygen is saying, well, you have water. Okay. I think you get what I mean.

My colleagues have made a lot of good comments about this. I think that the piece that I want to stress is how Hezbollah is really

being used as a proxy by what I think many of us consider one of the most if not the most dangerous country in the world and that is Iran, which is trying to take over Iraq, Syria, to name a couple of countries—Yemen. They are destabilizing and dangerous in many areas that we are very, very concerned about and so they have to be stopped. And I think this resolution goes toward that direction.

On what I would hope is a more positive note of inspiration is our urging or our resolution to work with displaced children toward education.

You know, in reading about it, I think there is about 25 million of the world's out of school children who are in conflict zones. Think about that.

What does that mean? We are talking about a lost generation, and here is what is happening. Not only are the kids not getting educated but here is what is happening. We will use Syria as an example. They are not only not getting educated but the number of young girls who are now forced into child marriage has doubled from 12 to 26 percent. I mean, you imagine 12-year-olds, 14-year-old girls being forced to get married.

You have child labor rapidly increasing in very illegal and unsafe conditions and I think as important is a complete lack of hope for young people. What happens to young people when they have no hope, no education, no potential of a real job other than maybe 1 day joining some terrorist organization or being the victims of one? So I thank this committee for that resolution on education.

And then I know Ms. Bass is not here but I also want to say something about urging Kenya to have a fair and safe election. Some of us will be traveling to the region to monitor that election and I wish us well on that.

But I think it is very important for us to support democracies and fair election anyplace in this world. And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Steve Chabot of Ohio on today's bills.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for holding this important markup. I support all the bills. I will focus on one in particular.

It has become apparent that the challenges that many girls across the globe face are daunting. Many of those difficulties begin at birth when millions of children, mostly girls, are not properly registered. They don't have birth certificates, making it easier for those children to disappear in human trafficking networks or be coerced into a childhood marriage, as Ms. Frankel just indicated, or forced labor.

That is why in the House Betty McCollum and myself, in a bipartisan way, and Marco Rubio and Senator Shaheen over in the Senate introduced legislation to bolster efforts to develop birth certificates and national registries for children in developing countries. That legislation was passed by this committee, it was passed by both Houses, and President Obama signed it into law. That was about 2 years ago.

However, another equally important aspect of the problem facing girls, as Ms. Frankel just indicated, is access to education. As a

former teacher, myself, in an inner city school I've seen firsthand how education empowers children.

Unfortunately, millions of children receive no education due to circumstances beyond their control. This is particularly true for the growing number of displaced people around the world as it is exceedingly difficult for children in conflict zones to receive a primary or a secondary education.

Armed conflicts across the world, particularly in places like Syria, South Sudan, and others have resulted in the internal displacement of millions of women and children and forced them to literally flee their homes.

Education is one of the key components in helping lift this most vulnerable population out of the depths of poverty and the difficult circumstances that they are facing. Access to education not only gives children the opportunity to grow and learn but also offers safety and shelter from the violence that is going on and the circumstances around them, safety from extremist ideology and human trafficking networks and a horrible cycle of abuse.

Simply stated, access to education provides stability and consistency to children living in extremely unstable conditions, especially girls. Boys also are involved in this but girls are particularly vulnerable to this.

It is our responsibilities as leaders of the free world to step up and ensure that education, a basic right, is accessible to all.

I want to thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Robin Kelly of Illinois, for her leadership in introducing the legislation—one of the pieces that we are discussing here this morning, H.R. 2408, the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act.

It will move us in the right direction by calling on the Secretary of State and U.S. AID, previously known as USAID—I still have a hard time, whether it is U.S. AID, USAID. USAID makes more sense but if you've been around here a while like I have, sometimes you struggle with that one. But USAID now—to prioritize access to primary and secondary education.

It aims to directly benefit displaced children, specifically girls, and will help to address one of the world's biggest challenges facing refugees. This legislation also encourages greater international coordination and promotes needed education for refugees where they are through local schools.

The Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act will ensure that millions of child refugees will have an opportunity to reach their highest potential, even those in the most dire conditions.

So I, again, want to thank my colleague, Robin Kelly, for her hard work on this legislation and hopefully we can continue to work on things down the road because, as the chairman knows, this is one committee that really does work in a bipartisan fashion.

I wish the rest of the Congress did it. The other committee that I happen to chair, the House Small Business Committee with Nydia Velazquez, we actually work in a pretty bipartisan way as well.

So the rest of the Congress should model themselves after those two committees.

So with that, I will yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii to speak on today's bills.

No? We then go to—Norma Torres, I think, is next in the queue. All right. Who seeks recognition? Joaquin Castro of Texas.

Mr. CASTRO. Thank you, Chairman.

I want to thank all of the members whose bills are being considered before us today.

Representative Wagner and I co-founded the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN earlier this year to deepen the United States and Congress' engagement with Southeast Asia.

ASEAN, as you know, serves as an example of successful regional cooperation. The nations of Southeast Asia, despite distinct histories, cultures, and religions have placed their faith in cooperation rather than conflict.

U.S. security interests in Southeast Asia are wide ranging and supported by many regional partners. Members of ASEAN have worked closely with the United States to address mutual security concerns.

Two members—the Philippines and Thailand—are treaty allies of the United States. Singapore and the United States cooperate closely to safeguard the maritime passageways of Southeast Asia and maintain a rules-based order in the Asia Pacific region.

U.S. relationships with other ASEAN members such as Vietnam have grown in recent years as we not only acknowledge our past but also partner for a brighter future the member states of ASEAN hold significant economic promise and our economic relationship underpins much of U.S. engagement with the region.

My home state of Texas exports over \$13 billion worth of goods to ASEAN countries each year. These exports support over 70,000 Texas jobs and over 500,000 jobs across the United States.

The U.S.-ASEAN relationship is also built on history and cultural exchange. Millions of Americans can trace their family roots to the countries of ASEAN including over 400,000 Texans.

Tourism to and from ASEAN exposes hundreds of thousands of people to our cultures and communities across the Pacific. Language, literature, food, and music link our cultures across the ocean, set roots, and enrich both of our societies.

House Resolution 311, the resolution we are considering here today, is part of America's continuing engagement with ASEAN. It commemorates the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN and I am proud to present it here today.

Thank you.

Chairman ROYCE. Is Mr. Duncan seeking recognition?

Mr. DUNCAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just a few quick words. I want to thank you and the committee for continuing to stand up for the people of Venezuela against oppression.

I want to commend Mr. DeSantis for his Resolution 259, which I fully support, and I appreciate the president talking about sanctions yesterday and continuing to point out how bad a Constituent Assembly would be in the face of democratic principles that should be in place in Venezuela.

I also want to thank the committee for its continued efforts to support democracy and human rights all across the globe, not just in Venezuela but anywhere that human rights are violated.

On the Canada Resolution 357, the time is right to reaffirm our partnership with our close friends and Canada is our best friend. They are our second largest trading partner. The strategic alliances that we have with our friends to the north are important and this resolution reaffirms that.

Thirdly, I want to point out that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and anytime we can point that out and point out the fact that they are backed by Iran—and neither Iran nor Hezbollah has America's best interest at heart. We should encourage our allies, whether they are in Europe or anywhere they may be, to point out that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization. So I commend and even support the words of Ms. Frankel.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, this is a good markup with a good slate of bills and I look forward to supporting them all.

I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Duncan.

Any other members seeking recognition?

Mr. Brad Sherman of California on today's bills.

Mr. SHERMAN. I want to commend the chair and the ranking member for bringing to us nine well-crafted bipartisan bills. I want to commend the authors of each of them.

I particularly want to thank the committee for focusing at the full committee level on human rights in east Africa. My wife works on that every day at the State Department and it is good that I can go back and tell her that I am also doing my part.

In particular, I want to praise the chair of the Africa Subcommittee, Mr. Smith, and I would lavishly praise the ranking member, Karen Bass, if she were here, and in any case, the work of that subcommittee is to be commended.

I want to associate myself with Ted Deutch's remarks about Hezbollah. This is an international terrorist organization and no one in Europe should be fooled into thinking that it is a Lebanese political party or that you can separate the actions of the political wing from the military wing, which is like blaming some of the fingers but not all of the fingers on the hand that holds the gun and shoots the innocent person.

Keep in mind that Hezbollah has done more than any other organization that I—perhaps but along with Russia and Iran to support Assad's tyranny in Syria kill nearly 500,000 people and create a refugee crisis that Europe is suffering from. Perhaps if Europe had dealt with Hezbollah effectively in the past Europe would not face the refugee crisis that it faces today. We can't be sure.

As ranking member of the Asia Subcommittee, I commend to the full committee two bills on Asia and thank Chairman Yoho for his leadership of that subcommittee.

The first deals with North Korean human rights. I want to commend our former chair of the full committee, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and I also support Chairman Yoho's amendment to authorize the President to distribute or provide grants to provide information-receiving devices—electronically reachable devices. So many North Koreans get their information smuggled in through devices that simply didn't exist 10 or 20 years ago.

Finally, I should commend the gentleman from Texas, Mr. Castro, for his bill on ASEAN.

And with that, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Mr. Yoho of Florida on today's bills.

Mr. YOHO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to share my support for H.R. 2061, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017. I commend Chairman Emeritus Ros-Lehtinen for leading this reauthorization effort as she has done in the past.

The substitute amendment I have offered for this legislation reflects the work performed at the subcommittee markup and I thank my colleagues on the Asia Pacific Subcommittee for joining me to move this legislation forward in the legislative process.

The horrific human rights abuses committed by Kim Jong-Un are an integral part of his power structure. Countering these unspeakable crimes however we can is both a moral imperative and sound strategy.

I have also offered a second amendment to this legislation and I thank Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for including it in today's en bloc package.

This amendment will attach the distribution and promotion of Right to Knowledge Act to today's reauthorization. Importantly, this amendment will expand the authority of the President and the Broadcasting Board of Governors to transmit and distribute information inside North Korea, one of the surest ways to weaken Kim's regime's grip on power.

The two bills are natural partners and represent an important step to promote human rights and the free flow of information in North Korea.

Again, I thank the chairman and ranking member, and yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go to Brad Schneider of Illinois to speak on the bills.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Thank you, Chairman Royce.

I want to thank Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel for holding this markup today. I appreciate the consideration of these bipartisan pieces of legislation that address key foreign policy issues and I am proud to add my voice to those of my colleagues in supporting these measures.

I am particularly pleased that today we are marking up House Resolution 359, which I am honored to cosponsor with my colleagues. This resolution urges the European Union to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.

The EU designated Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization in 2013 and has made notable progress in countering Hezbollah activities.

But more must be done. As the resolution states, we urge the EU to take practical and tangible steps to reduce the terrorist threat posed to the United States, Europe, Israel, and our other allies in the Middle East by Hezbollah.

For example, increasing cross-border intelligence sharing, freezing Hezbollah's assets, prohibiting Hezbollah fund-raising activities, and issuing arrest warrants for Hezbollah members and supporters in Europe would not only send a strong message but it would have a concrete impact, inhibiting the ability of Hezbollah to operate with impunity.

Let us be clear. There is no distinction between the military and political wings of Hezbollah. They are part and parcel of the same entity and that is a terrorist organization that threatens the United States and our allies and contributes to the instability in the Middle East and the suffering of millions of people.

I am also proud to co-sponsor H.R. 2061 that reauthorizes the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, extending its provisions until 2022.

While North Korea poses a grave and growing threat to the security of the United States, those who suffer most at the hands of the brutal regime of Kim Jong-Un are the North Korean people themselves who lack basic freedoms, are subject to torture and oppression, and are denied access to the basic goods and services.

This bill also authorizes support for democracy and governance and humanitarian assistance programs for North Korea in recognition of the vital role that our diplomacy and development programs play in addressing conflict situations.

In addition, I offer my support for the other pieces of legislation being marked up today supporting human rights and democratic elections, protecting vulnerable women and girls, and reaffirming the United States' enduring bilateral and multilateral relationship with allies around the world.

The national security of the United States rests upon three pillars—defense, diplomacy, and development.

We must ensure that our foreign policy continues to use all of the tools available to us in appropriate balance with each other.

Indeed, these pieces of legislation exemplify how crucial it is that we maintain robust support for the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development so that they can continue to advance our national priorities and sustain our position as a global leader in democracy, human rights, poverty alleviation, and defense of the world's most vulnerable populations.

I would like to thank the committee again for considering these important and relevant bills, and with that, I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you.

We go to Mr. Ted Poe of Texas on today's bills.

Mr. POE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to comment on two of these pieces of legislation. First, the North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act. If we look around the world there is no greater violator of human rights than North Korea. The people of that country live in a life of hopeless slavery and they are denied nearly all the basic human rights that most countries believe in. Freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and freedom of movement are nonexistent in the kingdom of North Korea.

Little Kim and his cronies have absolutely no concern for human life and decency. Hundreds of thousands of North Koreans are held in camps for political prisoners. In many cases, three generations of the same family are detained together in these prison work camps. They are routinely beaten, they are tortured, and if they are not executed, many die from starvation. Live births are prohibited in these prison camps. Forced abortions, killing of the newborn babies, are standard procedure in North Korea in these prison camps.

The North Korean regime is not content simply with controlling these camps. Little Kim is a paranoid dictator. He and his fathers have tried to control all aspect their people's lives, even their beliefs. According to the regime, only the Kim family should be worshiped and they expect that. Christians are particularly singled out for persecution. Bibles are outlawed. A person can be thrown in jail for professing any and all religious beliefs.

The people of North Korea suffer on a scale not imaginable anywhere in the world today. Two million people—two million people have died of starvation since the 1990s. Nearly one out of every 10 children suffers from malnutrition and 4 out of 10 are chronically malnourished.

These tragic figures are the direct result of decisions of the North Korean regime. Their slavery of their people does not just include the borders of North Korea.

North Korea takes people in North Korea and sells them on the marketplace of slavery to other countries like China and sends their workers to China where they work and the money that is paid to the workers never goes to the workers. It goes to the Government of China. China is complicit in this slave trade and the slavery of humans from North Korea going to its country.

The world basically did away with slavery many, many years ago but yet we see it raising its ugly head again in Little Kim's regime.

It is amazing to me what a country can do to its own people. I think we are morally and legally obligated on behalf of those people who cannot help themselves and we can't just watch while millions starve to death.

I support this reauthorization of the North Korean Human Rights Act. I commend my colleague, the gentlelady Ros-Lehtinen, for her work. North Korean people deserve basic humanity.

The other issue that I'd like to mention is the Hezbollah bill, 359, and encouraging our European friends to recognize them as a terrorist organization.

Historically, if we look at Europe especially since the '30s, they are late coming to the table to realize threats to their own nation and their own continent. And then Europe tries to act, sometimes successfully, sometimes not, to threats that are obvious from outsiders.

And I would hope that Europe understands that Hezbollah is a threat to them—that they are not, as my friend, Mr. Sherman said from California, a political organization. They are a terrorist organization that does things politically as well.

So I hope they realize the importance of working with the United States on Hezbollah. Hezbollah is in many places in the world, not just one place, and Hezbollah is funded from the number-one terrorist state in the world out of 195 countries and that is the country of Iran.

Europe needs to recognize the threat within their own borders and they need to do it as soon as they can, and that is just the way it is, Mr. Chairman.

I will yield to you.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you. Thank you for yielding back, Mr. Poe.

I think—I think our last speaker is Robin Kelly of Illinois on this measure.

Ambassador Wagner, did you seek time as well?

We go to Robin Kelly in Illinois.

Ms. KELLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am honored to introduce, with Congressman Steve Chabot, H.R. 2408, the Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act, a bill that would provide all children of all genders access to quality education.

I thank the chairman for including this bill in our final markup before August recess and I encourage all of my colleagues to support it.

At the beginning of this year, 65 million people had been displaced from their homes, half of whom were 18 or younger. Too often these children are not only subject to violence and discrimination but they are also stripped of their basic human right to an education.

The U.N. refugee agency recently reported that 4 million displaced children are without access to elementary school and 88 percent of displaced children will never attend college.

Without access to primary and secondary education these children become increasingly vulnerable to the most appalling human rights abuses. Lacking comfort and stability, displaced children are targeted for sex trade, abduction, child labor, early marriage, extreme poverty, and abuse.

For the millions of displaced children, especially young girls, school may provide their only means of escape. Education helps children cope with trauma, avoid sexual violence, and transition into their new lives. The classroom environment gives them a sense of normalcy, community, support, and helps them overcome isolation and resentment.

In addition, college and career training programs equip displaced students with the skills and confidence they need to become responsible members of their communities. For this reason, I have worked closely with Congressman Chabot to introduce H.R. 2408, the Protecting Children's Access to Education Act.

With this bill, Congressman Chabot and I hope to provide displaced children, especially young girls, with economic, emotional, and educational opportunities they deserve.

H.R. 2408 calls on the U.S. Government to collaborate with donors, private organizations, and other countries to include displaced children into the global public school system.

Our bill supports programs that close the language barrier between teachers and displaced students and that train displaced students for college and careers.

The Protecting Girls' Access to Education Act would authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to provide efforts that provide safe accessible education to displaced children and to measure the success of these efforts.

Most importantly, our bill would help educational institutions prevent discrimination against displaced children, especially young girls, who often become victims of bullying and sexual harassment.

I also applaud Congressman Rubio and Congressman Menendez for introducing their companion bill in the Senate. Together, we

have led a comprehensive bipartisan effort to improve the lives of displaced children. I look forward to seeing its enactment.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Ambassador Ann Wagner of Missouri.

Ms. WAGNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to first state my strong support for all of the bills that we are marking up today but I want to speak specifically in support of House Resolution 311, the resolution that I was honored to introduce with my colleague, Representative Castro, to commemorate ASEAN's 50th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations.

Southeast Asia has tremendous cultural, political, historical, and religious diversity. ASEAN was formed in part to create a bulwark against communism in Southeast Asia among these diverse nations. Today, ASEAN's goals have evolved and the region is experiencing tremendous growth. Nearly \$100 billion of U.S. goods and services are exported to the ASEAN, rivaling our \$113 billion market in China.

In January, I founded the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on ASEAN with my friend and colleague, Congressman Castro. The caucus acknowledges America's special relationship with ASEAN and is pushing Congress forward in strengthening engagement in Southeast Asia.

House Resolution 311 was one of our first initiatives and the resolution encourages the enhancement of economic and defense cooperation with ASEAN.

It reaffirms the U.S. commitment to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and human trafficking and urges ASEAN to improve assistance to refugees and migrants.

I am grateful that the chair and ranking member are strong supporters of this effort and I look forward to next seeing this resolution on the House floor.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

Chairman ROYCE. Thank you very much, Congresswoman Wagner.

Hearing no further requests for recognition, the question occurs on the items considered en bloc.

All those in favor, say aye.

All those opposed, no.

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it, and the measures considered en bloc are agreed to.

Without objection, the measures considered en bloc are ordered favorably reported as amended. Staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes and the Chair is authorized to seek House consideration under suspension of the rules.

And that concludes our business here today. I thank the ranking member and all of our committee members for their contributions and assistance with this markup.

And the committee is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:16 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

July 27, 2017

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: Thursday, July 27, 2017

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

MARKUP OF: H. Res. 128, Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia;

H. Res. 259, Expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela;

H. Res. 311, Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia;

H. Res. 357, Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy, and for other purposes;

H. Res. 359, Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members;

H. Res. 449, Urging the Government of Kenya and Kenya's political parties to respect democratic principles and hold credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in August 2017;

H.R. 1918, Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2017;

H.R. 2061, North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017; and

H.R. 2408, Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-3021 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 Thursday Date 7/27/2017 Room 2172

Starting Time 10:08 Ending Time 11:15

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

Presiding Member(s)

Chairman Edward R. Royce

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.

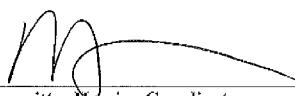
RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): *(Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)*

<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 11:15


 Full Committee Hearing Coordinator

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
X	Joe Wilson, SC
X	Michael T. McCaul, TX
X	Ted Poe, TX
	Darrell Issa, CA
	Tom Marino, PA
X	Jeff Duncan, SC
X	Mo Brooks, AL
	Paul Cook, CA
	Scott Perry, PA
	Ron DeSantis, FL
	Mark Meadows, NC
X	Ted Yoho, FL
	Adam Kinzinger, IL
X	Lee Zeldin, NY
X	Dan Donovan, NY
	James F. Sensenbrenner, Jr., WI
X	Ann Wagner, MO
	Brian J. Mast, FL
X	Brian K. Fitzpatrick, PA
	Francis Rooney, FL
X	Thomas A. Garrett, Jr., VA

<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>MEMBER</i>
X	Eliot L. Engel, NY
X	Brad Sherman, CA
	Gregory W. Meeks, NY
	Albio Sires, NJ
X	Gerald E. Connolly, VA
X	Theodore E. Deutch, FL
X	Karen Bass, CA
X	William Keating, MA
	David Cicilline, RI
	Ami Bera, CA
X	Lois Frankel, FL
X	Tulsi Gabbard, HI
X	Joaquin Castro, TX
X	Robin Kelly, IL
	Brendan Boyle, PA
	Dina Titus, NV
X	Norma Torres, CA
X	Brad Schneider, IL
X	Tom Suozzi, NY
X	Adriano Espaillat, NY
X	Ted Lieu, CA

7/27/17 Foreign Affairs Committee Markup Summary

By unanimous consent, the Chair called up the following measures and amendments, previously provided to Members, to be considered *en bloc*:

1. H. Res. 128 (Smith), Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia;
 - a. Smith amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 128;
 - a. Smith 49, an amendment to the Smith ANS.
2. H. Res. 259 (DeSantis), Expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela;
 - a. DeSantis amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 259.
3. H. Res. 311 (Castro), recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia;
 - a. Castro amendment in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 311.
4. H. Res. 357 (Duncan), Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy, and for other purposes;
 - a. Duncan 29, an amendment to H. Res. 357.
5. H. Res. 359 (Deutch), Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members;
 - a. Deutch 27, an amendment to H. Res. 359.
6. H. Res. 449 (Engel), Urging the Government of Kenya and Kenya's political parties to respect democratic principles and hold credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in August 2017.
7. H.R. 1918 (Ros-Lehtinen), Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act of 2017;
 - a. Ros-Lehtinen amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1918.
8. H.R. 2061 (Ros-Lehtinen), North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017;
 - a. Yoho amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2061;
 - a. Yoho 58, an amendment to the Yoho ANS.
9. H.R. 2408 (Chabot), Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act.

The measures considered *en bloc* were agreed to by voice vote.

By unanimous consent, the measures as amended were ordered favorably reported to the House, and the Chairman was authorized to seek House consideration under suspension of the rules.

The Committee adjourned.

